

**THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report**

Volume III, 1947

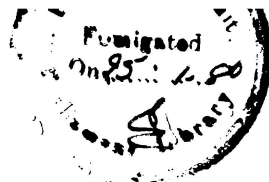
(10th March, 1947 to 24th March, 1947)

**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
1947**



A. B.

X



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

President :

The Honourable Mr. G. V. MAVALANKAR.

Deputy President :

Khan MOHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

Mr. P. J. GRIFFITHS, M.L.A.

Sardar MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

Shrinati AMMU SWAMINADHAN, M.L.A.

Secretary :

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

Assistants of the Secretary :

Mr. A. J. M. ATKINSON.

Mr. HASAN MOHAMMAD KHAN.

Mr. N. C. NANDI.

Marshal :

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

Committee on Petitions :

Khan MOHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN, M.L.A. (*Chairman*).

Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

Shri Sri PRAKASA, M.L.A.

Mr. C. P. LAWSON, M.L.A.

Sardar MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

CORRIGENDA

to

Index to Legislative Assembly Debates, Volumes I to V, 1947

(3rd February, 1947 to 12th April, 1947)

Page 11, transfer line 9 above line 6.

Page 13, omit line 12 from bottom and transfer line 11 from bottom after line 32 from top.

Page 17, omit line 6 from bottom.

Page 19, insert "Reserve Bank of India (Second Amendment) Bill. 3092, 3095-96, 3099, 3104." above line 20 from bottom.

Page 27, insert "Publicity by certain newspapers of the recommendations of the Select Committee on — before the presentation of the report. 1538-39." over line 2 from bottom.

Page 29, omit existing line 9 and in existing line 25 for "BISCUIT(S)—" read "BIRD(S)—".

Page 36, omit lines 7 and 8.

Page 42, after line 16, insert "CIVIL SUPPLIES—".

Page 43, for line 2 under "COACH(ES)—", read "Air conditioned — on G.I.P., B.B. & C.I., M. & S.M. Railways. 2905-06."

Page 46, above line 4 from bottom, insert "Terms of reference of Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee. 2940."

Page 51, under "COTTON—", in line 3, for "907-07" read "906-07".

Page 58, above line 12 from bottom, insert "Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation. 1966."

Page 60, for existing line 5, read "Functions of the Commodities Prices Board and matters connected therewith. 1626-42."

Page 62, under "DEMONETIZATION—", for "2399" read "2390".

Page 65, last line, for the illegible figure read "3140".

Page 78, under "FORCES—" after line 3, insert "See also 'Army(ies)'".

Page 80, in line 3, for "Allied" read "Armed".

Page 84,—(i) omit line 2;

(ii) above line 32 from bottom insert "Consideration of Clauses. 510, 528, 945."; and

(iii) omit line 30 from bottom.

Page 86, under "GOVERNMENT SERVANTS—" after line 4, insert "See also 'Employee(s)'" and omit line 6 from bottom.

Page 100, under "HOUSING—" in line 2, after "re-housing" insert "scheme".

Page 103, in line 9, for "1958-69" read "1968-69".

Page 107, for line 28 from bottom, read "INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES BILL—"; and omit line 24 from bottom.

Page 110, above line 11 from bottom, insert "Motion re—".

Page 122, at the end of last line, read "Simla. 3068-69."

Page 123, omit line 3 from top.

Page 127, under "LANGUAGE—" after line 3, insert "order in addressing the House in a vernacular and ruling by Mr. President that an Honour-".

Page 134, omit line 5 from bottom and in last line, for "890-92" read "990-92".

Page 138,—(i) under "MANUFACTURE—" in lines 13 and 14, for "dry-stuffs" read "dyestuffs";

(ii) under "MANU SUBEDAR, MR.—" omit line 4, and in line 5, insert "2753 59" before existing page numbers.

Page 140, in line 35 from bottom, for "drystuffs" read "dyestuffs".

Page 144, under "MATTHAI, THE HONOURABLE DR. JOHN—" after line 3, insert "Construction of new lines. 1950."

Page 149, under "MOMBASA—" for the illegible figure read "96".
 Page 153, under "MUTINY—" after existing figures read "763-64".
 Page 154, for existing line 10 from bottom read "Recommendations of the Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee. 1758." and omit line 8 from bottom.
 Page 156, under "NAVY, ROYAL INDIAN—" in line 7, for "the Committee" read "the report of the Committee".
 Page 161, below last line, insert "See also 'Factory(ies)'" .
 Page 162, for existing line 16, read "OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY—" and omit lines 1 and 2 at top of the page.
 Page 169, under "PIPERADIH COLLIERY—" for "3389" read "3388".
 Page 172, omit line 7 and transfer the next line after line 1 under "POSTAL EMPLOYEE(S)—".
 Page 173, under "PRESS(ES)—" omit line 1.
 Page 180, for line 7 from bottom, read "Increase of — fares below Re. 1. 1228-29".
 Page 184, in line 10, the missing figure is "1097".
 Page 191, in line 18, for "2920" read "2926".
 Page 199, omit last line.
 Page 204, omit line 3 from bottom.
 Page 205, for existing line 3 from bottom, read "strike. 19-20".
 Page 206, at the end of last line, insert "Provinces. 169-70".
 Page 214, for existing line 18 from bottom read "SKELTON—".
 Page 220, at the end of line 9 from bottom, insert "1313-14".
 Page 223, in line 21 from bottom, for "strike as" read "strikers at".
 Page 224, under "SUGAR—" insert "Question re—" as first line.
 Page 226, under "SUNHEMP—" for "1608. 07" read "1606-07".
 Page 232, in last line, for "89" read "88".
 Page 251, line 19 from bottom, for "3396" read "3395".
 Page 252, after line 7, insert "Motion re—"

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 14th March, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

TRADE DELEGATION TO MIDDLE EAST.

936. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether Government intend to send a trade delegation to the Middle East for exploring the possibilities of India's export trade; and

(b) if so, when this delegation would leave India?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b). The Trade Delegation left Karachi for the Middle East on the 9th March.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

937. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the term of service of the High Commissioner for India in London, his salary and allowances?

(b) What is the date of appointment of the present incumbent and the approximate date when his successor will be appointed?

(c) What is the yearly expenditure of the High Commissioner's office in London?

(d) Is any part of the expenditure met by His Majesty's Government? If so, how much?

(e) What is the total number of officers and clerks employed in the office and what are their positions?

(f) How many of them are Indians, and how many are Muslims?

(g) What is the number of non-Indians?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) The High Commissioner for India, London, is appointed for a period not exceeding five years but is eligible for re-appointment. He receives a pay of £3,000 per annum, an entertainment allowance of £1,000 per annum and an equipment allowance of £250 at the time of his joining the appointment if at the date of his appointment he is habitually resident in India. He is also allowed a car at Government expense and a free furnished house but the maintenance charges of the house are paid by him upto a limit of £250 per annum.

(b) 10th June, 1943. His present term expires in June, 1948.

(c) A statement furnishing the revised estimate of expenditure for the current year and the budget estimates for the next year is laid on the table. (Statement I.)

(d) No, Sir.

(e), (f) and (g). A statement is laid on the table. (Statement II)

Statement I

Details of the High Commissioner's Establishment Charges.

Sub-head	Revised Estimates 1946-47	Budget Estimates 1947-48
	Rs.	Rs.
B. 1. General Public Accounts and Education Departments.	22,60,000	22,75,000
B. 2. Colonial Departmental charges for issue of leave pay etc.	8,000	8,000
B. 3. Stores Department	29,15,000	26,99,000
B. 4. Trade Department	2,00,000	2,37,000
B. 5. India Supply Commission	4,81,000	4,92,000
B. 6. Publicity Organisation in London	92,000
	58,64,000	58,03,000
B. 7. Deduct Recoveries—		
(1) Surcharges on Stores	—25,43,000	—50,36,000
(2) Provincial Government share of the cost of High Commissioner's Establishment.	—6,52,000	—6,52,000
(3) Inspection Charges on Stores, supplied on contracts placed in India.	—6,000	—20,000
Net amount chargeable to Central Revenues.	26,63,000	95,000

Statement II

Total strength	Designations	Indians	Muslims	Non-Indians
Officers 270	High Commissioner 1	78	10	188
	Dy. High Commissioner 1			
	Indian Trade—			
	Commissioner, London 1			
	Heads of Department Deputy and Assist. nt. 6			
	Heads of Departments Controlling 8			
	Superintending & Principal Executive Officers 26			
	Higher Executive Officers 52			
	Executive Officers 88			
	Higher Clerical Officers 29			
	Seamen's Welfare Officers and Assistants 6			
	Technical Officers and Inspectors of Stores 44			
	Director, India Supply Commission 1			
	Deputy Director, India Supply Commission 1			
	Assistant Director, India Supply Commission 3			
	Senior Staff Officers 3			
Clerks 351		39	5	312

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What proportion of the officers and clerks employed there are Indians?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The number of Indian clerks employed there is very small—only about 44 out of 351—because the old establishment was being continued and non-Indians were already in service. It is difficult to send Indians from here at this time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the officers? Your answer covers only one portion of my question.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I have mentioned about the officers also in the statement. There are 88 Indian officers as against 188 non-Indian officers.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask what is the difficulty of sending Indians from here to that office particularly in view of the fact that there is great unemployment in India since the war is over? Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of sending Indians from here because after all that office is a permanent office?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: People who are on the permanent establishment of that office will have to be given a certain notice and the question of payment of compensation may have to be considered. There are various other difficulties, but the question will be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that most of the Indian Clerks happen to be very highly qualified—Barristers-at-Law—whereas the English clerks generally have only London Matriculation qualification?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The qualifications are taken into consideration only at the time of appointment, but those people who are already in service cannot be dismissed unless we lay down new standards. I may inform the Honourable Member that the question of reorganisation of this office is under consideration.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is a fact that other foreign offices in London have 90 per cent. of their staff recruited from their own countries?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I cannot answer the question off hand because I shall have to make enquiries.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it not a fact that the high proportion of the non-Indian element in the staff there is due to the fact that we had to take over quite a large number of Britishers from the India Office as a kind of a legacy when the India House was organized?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That is true about the initial stage.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member examine the legal and constitutional position in regard to dispensing with the services of many of these officers and clerks and whether we have to pay any compensation at all, and if so how much, and also how much notice will be necessary?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That question will be examined.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask from the Honourable Member if the staff consists of only Covenanted Civil Servants in which case only compensation will have to be paid?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I believe, subject to a few exceptions, they are not Covenanted Civil Servants.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then their services can be terminated by giving them six months notice.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That question will be examined along with other questions.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Would the Honourable Member immediately withdraw all the Indian clerks so that foreign peoples may not know that we are only a nation of clerks and we should know that Europeans also can be clerks.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The Honourable Member seems to overlook the fact that we have 88 Indian officers as against 44 clerks there.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I want all the 44 clerks to be withdrawn.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he would consider the urgency and importance of instituting a service on similar lines as the India Foreign Service so that Indians may not be sent only to London, but may also be employed in all other trade offices in other countries?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Naturally with the constitution of the Indian Foreign Service, the two will have to go together.

RESUMPTION OF STEAMER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST COAST OF INDIA.

938. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether steamer communication between the east and west coasts of India has been resumed, and if so, whether it has come up to the pre-war level?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to have regular steamer communication resumed on the west coast between Bombay and North and South Kanara?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Steamer communication between the East and West Coasts of India was never interrupted. The question of its resumption, therefore, does not arise. Under the control system adequate tonnage is now available for lifting all cargoes offering though it cannot be said that the pre-war level has been attained.

(b) From September 1946, regular passenger and cargo sailings have been re-established between Bombay and the ports in North and South Kanara. This service cannot be brought up to the pre-war level except after the release of three steamers of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company, which are still under requisition and undergoing extensive repairs prior to their return to owners.

INDIAN PILGRIMS TO HEJAZ.

939. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state the total number of deaths among the Indian pilgrims to Hejaz in 1946?

(b) Have any representations been received by Government from the pilgrims in regard to shipping facilities, accommodation on board the ship, food arrangements, etc. and if so, do Government propose to take steps to improve the conditions of travel?

(c) What was the cost of first class fare for each pilgrim by air?

(d) What was the rate of exchange at which the Saudi dues were collected?

(e) What was the current rate of exchange between the Rupee and the Riyal in the Hejaz, and what was the official rate of exchange fixed for the payment of the Saudi Arabian dues?

(f) What is the amount of estimated loss incurred by the pilgrims as a result of this fixation of higher rate of exchange?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) 501.

(b) Some representations of this nature have been received. Provision of greater shipping facilities will take time; but Government did provide an extra ship this year. Berthed accommodation is going to be introduced in the ships. Complaints about food have arisen mainly from the enforcement of rationing and from the acute food shortage in this country. No permanent relief will be

possible until the food situation improves; in the meanwhile Government will do their best to improve the position.

(c) Rs. 4,000 was realised by Government from each pilgrim, *i.e.*, by Air. There were no classes. The net fare, however, comes to Rs. 3,472/4/-. After deducting Saudi Quarantine fee and this fare, the balance will be refunded to applicants in the near future.

(d) and (e). The Saudi Arabian Government declared and collected their tariff from Indian pilgrims in rupees and not in rials. The question of official rate of exchange did not therefore arise in this connection. The market rate of exchange between rupee and rial is reported to have varied between 70 and 90 rials for 100 rupees during the pilgrimage season.

(f) It is difficult to calculate the loss incurred by the Indian pilgrims because of their having to pay in rupees.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is a fact that the Government was committed to provide certain facilities to Hajis but during the war these facilities could not be provided due to lack of shipping space, and as shipping has now been resumed, will Government give an assurance that all these facilities will be given to Hajis?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what facilities the Honourable Member is referring to. The chief facilities are accommodation, and no other. As a matter of fact this question has come up repeatedly at question time. Last year we tried our utmost to provide the fullest accommodation possible and we ultimately succeeded in sending over 21,000 pilgrims. Actually the applicants were more than that. We engaged a special ship and we have got into some difficulties now in regard to paying compensation to that ship because having engaged it it was not full at the last moment. People did not come in time. Although the applicants were many they did not turn up in time and it went not quite full. The main difficulty is shipping. We simply cannot produce the ships. We have tried to get them from various sources, including America. We are told that in the next season the Moghul Line and the Scindia line will provide extra ships but they are not yet certain. Even so, I am not quite sure that they will suffice. We have not yet been able to build new ships.

There is yet another difficulty. According to the Merchant Shipping Act or some other act we have to provide a certain minimum of accommodation for each pilgrim. We did not adhere to that Act wholly in order to provide more accommodation but we have now decided to adhere to it strictly (which is good) but that again diminishes the accommodation available to the other pilgrims.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With regard to the answer to part (c) of the question, in view of the fact that the amount charged for an air trip both ways was about Rs. 4,000, which was considered to be rather very prohibitive by many pilgrims, may I inquire from the Honourable Member whether Government would be good enough to start negotiations with the air company, so that by the next Haj season this rate would be brought down considerably and many pilgrims may take advantage of it and travel by air in the next season?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly we can start negotiations but it is difficult to negotiate in the absence of certain knowledge as to how many people want to travel by air. It will be a vague negotiation. On the last occasion what happened was one full air ship went and another was engaged but it was not full and we got into difficulties on account of that.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question, is it not a fact that the spiritual value of such a pilgrimage is greatly diminished if it is made in such comfort?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government is a temporal Government and not a spiritual government.

STRANDED HAJ PILGRIMS AT BASRAH.

940. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state whether Government are aware that about 250 Indian pilgrims returning from the Haj pilgrimage have been stranded in Basrah for the past one month and, if so, the reasons therefor?

(b) Is it a fact that they are without funds or food?

(c) Is it a fact that 500 others are held up at Karbala for want of steamer accommodation?

(d) How long will these pilgrims be detained at Basrah and Karbala?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to bring them to India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) In mid-February it was reported that there were about 600 Indian Shia pilgrims awaiting repatriation from Basrah. There are no standing arrangements in force for Shia pilgrims visiting the holy places in Iran and Iraq, principally because the pilgrimage is not confined to any particular period of the year. Large numbers of these Shia pilgrims also go by the overland route through Iran.

On return from Iraq the pilgrims generally rely on obtaining passages to India on the mail ships, and, because there are still fewer ships operating on the Persian Gulf route than in pre-war days, there has inevitably been congestion and delay in Basrah.

(b) The Government of India have sanctioned suitable maintenance grants for destitute pilgrims since December last year.

(c) Government have no information of the numbers of pilgrims waiting at Kerbela, as distinct from those at Basra.

(d) and (e). The *S. S. Islami* is reported to have sailed from Basrah for Karachi and Bombay on the 5th March, with 1,265 pilgrims.

ADVERSE TRADE BALANCES DUE TO IMPORTS.

941. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether Government are aware of the possibility of adverse trade balances arising out of importation of food, excessive purchase of consumer's goods by shopkeepers and the importation of capital goods with reduced exports on the whole?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take in order to meet this situation in due course?

(c) What are the figures of trade balances during 1945-46 and 1946-47 upto the last date for which figures are available?

(d) How much food import is scheduled during the next year in quantity and value?

(e) In which item of export is an increase anticipated during the current year and the next three years?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of checking the import of unessential consumer goods, the volume of which is at present left to individual initiative?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b). Yes, if the Honourable Member's presumption is correct, but the situation is being closely watched and necessary steps will be taken at the appropriate time.

(c) I lay on the table a statement showing India's visible balance of trade on private account in merchandise and treasure during the year 1945-46 and the first seven months of 1946-47.

(d) It is not possible to make any estimate of the foodgrains we shall be able to import in 1947.

(e) While it is difficult to anticipate with any degree of accuracy likely increases under particular items of export during the current year and the next three years, a certain number of manufactures have developed before and during the war, such as to mention only a few leather goods, manufacture of sport goods, cutlery, products of hosiery industry, stationery, cement and porcelain industry, carpet and coir rope. Government will take all necessary steps to increase their exports with a view to improve trade balance. As a result of liberalisation of export control, exports of hides, raw cotton, non-essential vegetable oilseeds and oils, jute and jute manufactures and wool may also show an increase during the period mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(f) Except those covered by the Open General Licences, imports of other consumer goods are permitted under a licensing system. Honourable Member's proposal is, however, already under examination.

Statement showing India's visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure during 1945-46 and 1946-47 (seven months, April to October, 1946).

	1945-46	1946-47 (Seven months, April to October 1946)
	R (lakhs)	R (lakhs)
Exports of Indian merchandise (private)	+ 2,41,85	+ 1,51,57
Re-exports of foreign " "	+ 23,62	+ 16,07
Imports of foreign " "	— 2,41,52 (a)	— 1,45,75 (a)
Balance of trade in merchandise	+ 23,95	+ 21,89
Gold (private)	+ 28	— 62
Silver (private)	— 20	— 3,84
Currency notes (private)	+ 6,26	+ 81
Balance of transactions in treasure (private)	+ 6,34	— 3,65
Total visible balance of trade	+ 30,29	+ 18,24

(a) Exclusive of the value of Railway materials (amounting to R nil) imported direct by State Railways working under company management which was not paid for in the ordinary way and not, therefore, taken into account in arriving at the balance of trade.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Apart from the open general licenses, a large number of negotiations are on foot and until a firm credit is opened it is not possible for the Reserve Bank to have information. May I know whether Government will now take steps through other means for even checking of negotiations for goods which are going on on a very large scale, in order to achieve the same end which Government also have in view?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It would be difficult, nay, impossible, for Government to check such negotiations. It is only at the stage when an application is made for exchange for certain purposes that either the Government or the Reserve Bank can come in and it is at that stage that Government propose to utilise their powers to make the best possible use of our exchange capacity.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Do Government propose to reduce the import of such goods which do not require hard currency?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There are certain essential consumer goods which we have to import even from hard currency countries for the purpose of giving our people an opportunity to purchase their essential requirements. Some complaints have been received regarding very large imports of certain items and steps are being taken to stop further imports of such articles. The import licenses were valid for two shipping periods. One shipping period is of half a year. A proposal is under consideration to reduce their validity to one shipping period, so that we may be in a position to watch the arrival of goods from foreign countries and to check their import when found necessary.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: My question related to those countries where the currency is easy and from which we can import without a license.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: If it is an easy currency country, the same considerations apply *viz.*, that only those goods which are essential and in short supply, they are allowed to be imported freely. But in cases where imports even from easy currency countries are likely to affect either our industries or our economy, they are kept under a licensing system.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the visible imports are so small and, on the other hand, the invisible imports are so large, what steps are Government taking in order to check and control the invisible imports?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: A check is being kept for the purpose of approximating both.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: My question has not been understood. I wanted to know whether consumer goods have flooded Indian markets from easy currency countries and what steps are being taken to stop or reduce the import of those goods.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That is very easy. If this happens, the articles will be taken off from the open general license and placed on the licensed list.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the policy of the Government with regard to imports from sterling area countries and hard currency countries. Is there any preference shown to sterling area countries?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Yes, the preference is due to the shortage of hard currency available to us and if the available hard currency is of a limited amount, we have to make the best possible use of it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if it is the policy of the Government to allow larger imports from the sterling area countries, so that the sterling balances may be liquidated?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: We have certain arrangements regarding the sterling balances. Sterling balances up to a particular amount cannot be touched at present. The whole question depends on what is the sterling balance available to us for use in a particular year and what is the hard currency available to us and the imports are regulated with a view to make the best possible use of both these currencies.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the English books are priced at enormous rates and so much of literature which is not needed and which even injurious to the people of this country is being imported into this country, will Government take steps to regulate the import of the various books that are coming from England which is in the easy currency area?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It would be difficult to appoint a censor to decide which books should be allowed to be imported, and we certainly do not want to stop import of books which are medium for the dissemination of knowledge.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government at least control the import of books which are written by Indians and published here in this country at a cheaper

rate but which are simultaneously published in England, priced at a higher rate, and which are being imported into this country?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The Indian cheaper edition is generally published much later than the expensive British edition.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOREIGN SERVICE

942. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state in which countries Government have decided to establish Embassies?

(b) What progress has been made with regard to the establishment of a Foreign Service and has any report been submitted by Sir Akbar Hydari, who has been on special duty for this purpose?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of introducing foreign languages, history and foreign commerce courses at selected centres in India in order to make persons eligible early for a foreign career in case of their selection?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Embassies have been established in the U.S.A. and China and an Embassy will shortly be established in France.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my statement in answer to question No. 61 put by Prof. Ranga on the 5th February 1947. The F.P.S.C. have since issued an advertisement inviting applications for the Indian Foreign Service. Sir Akbar Hydari has not been asked to make any formal report, but his advice and help have been taken in considering matters relating to the Foreign Service.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my answer to question No. 394 put by Seth Govind Das on the 18th February 1947.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that so few people in this country and coming only from a few communities or castes can alone qualify themselves to first class degrees, will Government consider the advisability of reducing their qualification from first class to at least second class?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I should say that it would be a dangerous precedent—I am not for the moment mentioning first or second class—to reduce the standards. The best way is to promote facilities for those groups or communities for their training. We propose to encourage them in every way. But this matter of Foreign Service is, if I may say so, even more important in regard to standards than any internal service. In regard to internal services there are numerous checks, but in a foreign country, where a representative goes, unless he attains a high standard it is positively dangerous and harmful. He cannot cope with the others. It is not like joining a big office and doing routine work. He has to have all manner of qualities which include qualities of mixing with people, knowing their language, customs and history and their background. Unless he knows these he is a complete misfit, and he might even do injury to our cause. We have, therefore, to have a high standard and try at any rate to bring in people who may thus far have had opportunities of attaining these high standards, and promote opportunities for them to attain such high standards rather than lower the standards.

Mr. President: I may remind Honourable Members that this matter has been considered and questions put a number of times in this House.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member himself never got a first class in any of his examinations will he kindly revise his opinion of the value of first class degrees?

Mr. President: Order, order.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member remember that I mentioned that the examinations of Shantiniketan where so many foreign languages are taught to students should also be considered in this connection?

Mr. President: I do not propose to allow many supplementaries on this question.

Seth Govind Das: My question has not been answered.

Seth Govind Das: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of what the Honourable Member said just now on the subject, may I enquire whether he will take into consideration, in examining this problem, the practice which existed in Japan where at a very early stage in his education a person was asked whether he would have something to do with foreign countries by way of trade or by way of government service or by other ways, and whether a certain amount of specialised training cannot be given to him right from the high school standard?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I should think that is rather difficult especially in the present stage of evolution. But as I once informed the House our proposal is, after selection of candidates, to give them a year and a half special training in a foreign University or some foreign Institute; after that a year's special training in India partly in regard to practical work so that they might get into the work and partly special courses organised. At the end of two and a half years of such special training after they are chosen there will be another examination to see if they have profited by the special training, and then they may join the service in some junior grade.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that in England the examination for the Foreign Civil Service is a stiffer examination than for the Home Civil Service?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It used to be so. I do not know the position now?

SELECTION OF MEN FOR THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

943. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state how many men have been selected for the Foreign Service so far and how many are proposed to be selected during 1947-48?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of sending out some of these unofficially as tourists in the first instance for a preliminary survey and for studying the language of the country?

(c) Have Government any information as to the number of Indians in India, who know foreign languages?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of employing some of these men in the Foreign Service?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Fifteen E.C.Os. have been selected for the Indian Foreign Service. It is not yet possible to say precisely how many persons will be required during 1947-48.

(b) It has been decided that the period of training for young recruits, who will be selected in the future on the results of a competitive examination should include a period of study in a foreign University where in addition to the study of other subjects they will be required to learn foreign languages.

(c) Government have no precise information but they understand that there are a considerable number of such Indians in India.

(d) Government will certainly consider this but mere knowledge of a foreign language is not always helpful. Other qualities are also needed. In the advertisement issued by the Federal Public Service Commission calling for applications for the Foreign Service it has been mentioned that candidates should preferably have a working knowledge of one or more foreign languages.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have considered the desirability of sending out some non-officials to those countries to which they may be ultimately put or may not be put if Government do not want them later, but of sending them out like this beforehand so that they do not reach their destination where they are to play an important part, altogether unfamiliar with the country—whether a non-official journey by these people would not be of some help?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite clear in my mind what the Honourable Member refers to. A youngman who is selected

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am not talking of youngmen. I am talking of senior men who have been taken now and are being sent to countries which they have never visited before. Have Government considered the desirability of asking some of these senior men unofficially to visit these countries before their appointments are ultimately announced after a month or two?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That might be desirable sometimes. But when we actually choose a man we choose him because somebody has got to be sent there immediately. If we hold up the appointment and send the person unofficially, in effect it will be officially sending him. There would not be much difference between the two. I can understand people being sent at some earlier period. Either we have chosen them or we have not. If we have chosen them, they have to be sent officially, although they may not be put in charge of the office itself.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: With reference to the answer to part (a) of the question may I know if the persons already selected belong to existing Government service; and with reference to the answer to part (c) may I know whether English has been treated as a foreign language?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The fifteen E.C.O's. who have been chosen are persons who held temporary commissions and who have retired from the Army. They were chosen first for the Central Administrative Service by the Federal Service Commission and then specially for the Foreign Service after various tests.

As regards the reference to English, English is obviously a foreign language though Honourable Members of this House do not seem to treat it as such.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable the Leader of the House what kind of training these students are expected to undergo in British or Foreign Universities for a year and a half and are there any particular courses in these universities which fit them for appointment in the External Affairs Department or embassies elsewhere?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There are various special courses in America, in England, in France, Switzerland and, no doubt, in other countries but we shall try to send them out to these various countries, not in a bunch to one place, and try to give them more or less the special training required for them as well as the general training, which is very important for foreign conditions.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the growing demand for such courses, is any attempt being made to introduce such courses in the Indian Universities?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have already informed the House once that we have asked Indian Universities to institute such courses not only in foreign languages but in international affairs and current affairs, in fact all subjects connected with foreign relations.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Central Government propose to give a subsidy to any of the universities to start such courses immediately?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. That question has not arisen but in regard to the reorganisation of Universities or the institution of special courses, we might be prepared to give them subsidy.

INDIANS ABROAD IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD

944. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state whether Government have definite information as to the number of Indians abroad in different parts of the world and, if so, what are the figures?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of sending out individual officers by way of Goodwill Mission to enquire into the life and conditions of these people and to report to Government?

(c) From which countries have deputations for political or other purposes reached India and got in touch with the Government here?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the disabilities of some of these Indians, with regard to (i) passport to and fro, (ii) passages to and fro, and (iii) facilities for movement of married women and children to and fro?

(e) Have Government received any complaints on this subject?

(f) Have the war restrictions on the normal movement to and fro of Indian nationals now been removed in all parts of Arabia and Africa?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government have little up-to-date information. The latest figures are given in the statement placed on the table of the House.

(b) and (d). As the Honourable Member is aware the Government of India are considering as a matter of urgency the establishment of Diplomatic and Consular Representatives in countries abroad where the interests of Indians require it. They also intend to appoint representatives in colonial territories of the British Commonwealth where considerable numbers of Indians live. They do not consider it necessary at this stage to send out individual officers to enquire into the life and conditions or general complaints of Indians abroad since all these matters can be more appropriately and satisfactorily dealt with by the Government of India's official representatives as soon as they are established.

(c) Since 1940 four deputations have visited India from Ceylon including one official one on behalf of the Government of Ceylon. One non-official delegation was sent to India in 1944 by the East African Indian Congress, and the South African Indian Congress sent a non-official deputation to India in 1946. Representatives from Fiji and Mauritius have also visited India.

(e) Government receive complaints from time to time from various parts of the world. Many of these complaints come from individuals. They are inquired into and representations made where necessary.

(f) Government have no information whether all the war restrictions on the normal movement of Indian nationals from all parts of Arabia and Africa have been removed but so far as the movement of Indians from India to these countries is concerned, war time restrictions have been removed. But owing to the shortage of shipping there is still difficulty in obtaining passages.

Statement

List of Indians in countries outside the Commonwealth

Europe :

1. Germany	44
2. Italy	23
3. France	10

North America :

1. U. S. A.	5,000
2. Panama	1,000

South America :

1. Brazil	2,000
2. Br. Guiana	157,185
Dt. Guiana	54,353

Africa :

1. Belgian Congo	1,000	
2. Prt. East Africa	4,000	"
3. Egypt and Sudan	1,025	
4. Abyssinia	2,000	

Asia :

1. Fr. Indo-China	2,000 (app.)	
2. Neth. East Indies	24,000	
3. Philippines	800	
4. Siam	30,000	
5. Japan	50	
6. China	No figures available.	
7. Manchuria		
8. Russia (Asiatic)		
9. Afghanistan	Correct figures not available.	
10. Persia	500 (?)	
11. Iraq	4,500	
12. Saudi-Arabia		
13. Turkey	37	
14. Syria		
15. Palestine	60	
16. Kashmir	400	

Indian Population in various parts of the British Empire according to the latest available estimates is as follows :—

No.	Name of the country	Indian Population	Year
Dominions			
1	Australia	4,544	1933
2	Canada	1,500	1941
3	New Zealand	1,200	1942
4	South Africa	266,016	1945
5	Southern Rhodesia	2,547	1941
Colonies and Protectorates			
6	Ceylon	750,000	1943
7	British Malaya	748,829	1940
8	Hong Kong	4,745	1931
9	Mauritius	269,546	1938
10	Seychelles	503	1931
11	Gibraltar	80	1931
12	Nigeria	32	1931
13	Kenya	47,000	1942

No.	Name of the country	Indian Population	Year
Colonies and Protectorates—contd.			
14	Uganda	26,972	1943
15	Nyasaland	1,851	1940
16	Zanzibar & Pemba	14,000	1931
17	Tanganyika	35,591	1942
18	Jamaica	26,507	1943
19	Trinidad	170,396	1942
20	British Guiana	157,185	1942
21	Fiji Islands	105,581	1942
22	Northern Rhodesia	421	1937
23	Maldives	550	1933
24	British N. Borneo	1,298	1931
25	Aden	5,594	1932
26	British Somaliland	520	1931
27	Malta	41	1933
28	Grenada	5,000	1932
29	St. Lucia	2,129	1921
30	British Honduras	497	1931
31	Sierra Leone	444	1931
Other Parts			
32	Burma	1,017,825	1931
33	United Kingdom	7,128	1932

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to part (a), may I know what is the strength of Indians in Burma now, as compared with the strength of their population before the war?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I could not give the figure. I could give the previous figure. The previous figure which is rather old was 1,017,825.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I want to know whether approximately it has been reduced by nearly 30 to 40 per cent.?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry I really could not give figure now. I will try to find out. I cannot make an approximate guess at the moment.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government taken any steps to acquire records of the life of Indians in foreign countries, because that part was hitherto handled by British consular and diplomatic services and there must be many particulars in their archives with regard to the life of stray Indians in those countries? Will Government make some attempt to get full records from the British Foreign Office?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This is a new idea which the Honourable Member has put forward. So far the Government have not thought of it. We will try to do so but when the Honourable Member mentions 'individual records kept by British consular officers and others' I imagine that most of these records were of the type that the Criminal Investigation Department keep. I do not know whether he is referring to that type of record or other records?

Mr. Manu Subedar: There may be trading difficulties, as in the case of the Sindhi merchants, there may be passport difficulties, family difficulties, litigations. There may be many things with regard to the life of Indians in those countries of which this Government in their records would have nothing whatsoever.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We shall try to find out.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to clause (b) of the question about sending a goodwill mission, is the Honourable Member aware that the Constituent Assembly is being formed in Burma, that seven lakhs of Indians are domiciled there and that only 100 are proposed to be enfranchised for the purpose? Is it not desirable to send a goodwill mission there in order to enable Indians to get their citizenship rights, so that they may participate in the work of framing a constitution for Burma?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I really do not know what a goodwill mission will be able to achieve in this matter. I was a little surprised to hear the figure of 100 persons enfranchised, which the Honourable Member gave. I think the proportion will be far larger. That is for the Constituent Assembly. As a matter of fact, we have been very much exercised over this matter and we have been in continuous communication with our own Agents with the Burmese Government and the Burmese Government have given us public assurances to the effect that they will later give the fullest franchise to Indians. One of the difficulties was lack of time. The Constituent Assembly elections take place on the 9th April or thereabouts and it became very difficult, even though they expressed their willingness, to make any change at this stage for this purpose but they have assured us that they will give the fullest franchise when the real constitution comes to be framed. A goodwill mission at the present moment will serve no purpose whatsoever. May I add this? When I said that we do not propose to send individual officers, I was referring chiefly not to these Colonial territories where Indians dwell but rather to foreign countries, as Mr. Subedar's question related to them but we do propose, wherever possible, to send either non-officials or officials to some of these Colonial territories.

ECONOMIC MISSION TO RUSSIA.

945. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state what arrangements Government have made with regard to co-ordination and planning in the economic and financial field in India?

(b) Have Government considered any proposal for sending an Economic Mission to Russia to study the efforts made and the results achieved in respect of each of the successive Russian Plans?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Since the termination of the Planning and Development Department early in July 1946 the principle agency for co-ordinating plans in the Central Government has been the Development Board. This Board consists of the Secretaries of certain departments and is presided over by the Deputy Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet. The Development Board has, during the past few months, considered questions such as allocation of funds as between the various Provinces and as between schemes sponsored by different Departments. The Advisory Planning Board which reported recently has made recommendations for setting up new machinery for planning at the Centre. These proposals are under consideration and decisions will shortly be taken. In the meantime the Development Board

will continue to discharge its present functions. But this is envisaged only as a temporary arrangement.

- (b) This and other similar proposals are likely to be taken up after the establishment of diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia, for which preliminary steps are already in hand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Some of us are noticing that the Departments of Government are all functioning too narrowly and departmentally. Take, for example, the question which I asked the Honourable the Commerce Member this morning about the total foreign exchange balances about which India is going to be in difficulties in the next three or four years. May I know whether the Development Board mentioned is of sufficiently high level and whether it does tackle questions of this type or whether it deals only with ordinary file questions which come before it? Have they got any initiative to tackle a problem of the kind which I asked the Honourable the Commerce Member this morning even if they were to overstep the boundaries between departments' work?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. I should imagine that normally we would not. We would work on the lower level.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I think there was a useful Committee of the Executive Council to deal with questions of planning and may I know whether that practice is being followed now by the present Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know to what Committee the Honourable Member refers, but there was a Cabinet Co-ordination Committee, whose normal function should be to consider the questions to which Mr. Manu Subedar drew attention. That Committee does exist but it is not at present working.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know what has happened to the Economic Committee of the Cabinet consisting of four departments concerned with economics, namely, Commerce, Finance, Transport and Supply? Is that Committee still functioning and, if so, whether they are taking any initiative or are they merely considering routine files as they come to them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I do not know exactly what has happened to the Economic Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I ask why this Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet is not functioning?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Owing to various obvious difficulties and also because we are in a formative and changing state.

DISTURBANCES IN TANK AND DERA ISMAIL KHAN.

946. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how much damage has been done to the life and property of people living in Tank and Dera Ismail Khan Districts as a result of recent disturbances in those areas;

(b) whether Government are aware that many refugees are coming to Dehra Dun and other places because of the disturbances in the Tribal area; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to stop these troubles in the Tribal Area?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No damage. There have been no disturbances in the Dera Ismail Khan District, of which Tank is a Tahsil.

(b) No

(c) There are no disturbances in the tribal areas at present. The Honourable Member is perhaps thinking of other areas which have undoubtedly had very serious disturbances and from which many refugees have gone elsewhere.

REVISION OF ALLOTMENT RULES FOR GOVERNMENT RESIDENCES IN DELHI.

947. *Sardar Mangal Singh: With reference to the reply to part (c) of my starred question No. 1420 asked on the 29th March 1946, regarding the revision of allotment rules of Government residences, will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have completed the re-examination of the Allotment Rules; if not, when it is likely to be completed;

(b) whether in their re-examination, Government have taken into consideration the fact that the amendment of the Revised Rules for allotment during the war, relating to seniority, is operating adversely against certain senior officials of the Government of India, since their retransfer to Delhi; and

(c) whether several representations have been made to Government by persons so adversely affected by the amended rule and, if so, what steps Government have taken to give them the required relief?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) No, Sir. The new rules are expected to be ready before the 1st April 1948.

(b) It is realised that the revised rules cause hardship in certain cases, but the revision was necessary in the interests of a larger number of other individuals. The point raised will however be taken into consideration when further revising the rules.

(c) Representations from a few individuals have been received, which will be considered.

COST OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAPITAL OF ORISSA AT BHUBANESHWAR.

948. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the capital of Orissa is going to be established at Bhubaneshwar; and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to meet a portion of the cost thereof; if so, what amount?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 20th March 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable the Finance Member.

FOREIGNERS IN OCCUPATION OF FLATS AND ACCOMMODATION IN BOMBAY.

949. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement on page 6 of the 'Forum' of Sunday, 9th February 1947, a weekly news magazine of Bombay to the effect "that there are enough foreigners in our flats and premises in Backbay, Churchgate, Cumballa Hill, Napean Sea Road, who deserve to be forthwith ousted and their premises made available to the citizens of this land. Many of our people have not even a room to sit";

(b) how far the statement is true;

(c) how many flats and premises are still under the requisition of the Government of India as on 1st February 1947;

(d) when it is proposed to return all these flats to their owners;

(e) whether Government are aware of the difficult housing situation in Bombay;

(f) when it is proposed to repatriate all these foreigners and whether the cost of their maintenance is from Indian or non-Indian revenues; and

(g) whether in the meantime Government propose to consider the advisability of putting all these foreigners in army barracks and other camps which might be lying vacant in various parts of the country?

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

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes.

(b) It has been ascertained from the Government of Bombay that the total number of foreigners residing in Bombay is 5,580, of whom 299 reside in Backbay Reclamation—Churchgate Area, 241 in Cumbala Hill and the remaining in Nepean Sea Road Area. With the exception of two persons who came to adverse notice for objectionable trading activities during the war and are now under orders to leave India, none of the others can be classified as undesirable.

(c) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the total number of premises now under requisition by the Government of India in Bombay. The total number of such premises is 106 (including 157 flats).

(d) This question is constantly engaging the attention of Government and a De-requisitioning Advisory Board has been set up in Bombay under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Defence Department. There is acute shortage of residential accommodation in Bombay for essential Government servants. Every effort is being made to find alternative accommodation. Derequisitioning will take place as and when accommodation becomes surplus to requirements or alternative accommodation is available.

(e) Yes.

(f) There is no proposal to repatriate these foreigners. None of them is being maintained by Government.

(g) Does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that these men came here to find an asylum and Government gave them an asylum when they were in difficulties, but now that the war has ended may I know whether Government would not induce them and give them facilities to repatriate them to their countries?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: These are ordinary private citizens and are not being maintained by Government and, therefore, there is no question of any repatriation or inducing them to leave the country.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that some of these elements are adding to the vice and crime of the City of Bombay? Have they made any inquiries in the matter? Will the Honourable Secretary for Works, Mines and Power have contact with the Home Department and make this specific inquiry whether some of these are undesirable elements and should be sent away?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Presumably this is a matter which concerns the Provincial Government, but, if the Honourable Member likes, he can table a question to the Home Department.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Instead of requisitioning flats for these foreigners, why does not the Government send them to the Barracks which are vacant?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: None of these people is living in a requisitioned flat. Requisitioned flats are for Government servants and not for these foreigners.

TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL MISSION TO JAPAN.

950. ***Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the proposal to send a Technical and Industrial Mission to Japan stands; and

(b) whether Government propose to attach a special officer to that Mission to examine the methods of cottage industries in Japan and the possibility of adopting them in our country?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present under consideration of Government to send an industrial mission to Japan. An invitation has, however, been received from the Supreme Commander for Allied Powers in Japan, through the Far Eastern Commission at Washington, to send from India a Technical Mission to Japan consisting of not more than five

persons who should be capable of acting on matters pertaining to reparation removals, identification and restitution of looted property or any other relevant matters which would otherwise require visit of a separate mission. The invitation has been accepted by Government and the question of selection of personnel for the Mission is receiving their consideration. As the activities of the Mission will be limited to specified objects, it may not be possible to attach a special officer to it with a view to examining the methods of cottage industries in Japan and the possibility of adopting them in India.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: What action has been taken upon the report of the Trade Commissioner who has already been sent to Japan?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No Trade Commissioner has been sent to Japan because private trade with Japan has not yet been opened. There is a representative of the Government of India in Japan and he deals with questions which arise.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member let us know whether Government are sending their own employees as technicians or they are sending out technicians from the industries as well?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Probably the men will include Government officials as well as people connected with industries and other interests.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government take care to see that these technicians are Indians?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Every one of them will be an Indian.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Has not the Trade Commissioner in Japan submitted a report to the Government of India?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There is only a representative of the Government of India in Japan at present, but as soon as private trade with Japan will be opened, an Indian Trade Commissioner will be sent there.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Has that representative submitted any report to the Government, and, if so, what action has been taken on it?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: His reports are received from time to time on the decisions reached by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in Japan and suitable action is taken on his reports.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Has the representative been asked to examine those things in Japan which are proposed to be given to India as part of reparations?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: He has been asked to do so, and in order to assist him in the selection, this mission is being sent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has he made any suggestion that an industrial mission also should be sent to Japan?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No suggestion has been received to that effect.

CONTROL OF HAJ PILGRIMAGE.

951. ***Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state whether the next Haj pilgrimage will be conducted under Government control as in the last two years, or will the pre-war system be restored?

(b) Are Government aware that intending pilgrims have already begun to send money to Government for reservation of passages, which indicates that there is going to be a heavy demand for passages to Hejaz this year?

(c) If so, do Government propose to take early steps to get greater number of ships for this year's Haj pilgrimage?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The question is under consideration and Government expect to come to a decision shortly in consultation with the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz.

(b) Yes.

(c) Attention is invited to part (e) of the reply to starred question No. 505, dated the 22nd February 1947, by Mr. Tamizuddin Khan.

PROHIBITION OF CIVILIANS' ENTRY INTO JAPAN.

952. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that civilians are not permitted to go to Japan even at their own expense and if so, the reason for this prohibition;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a large number of people in India who have property, trade goods and relations in Japan since pre-war days and that they are naturally anxious to go there to enquire after them;

(c) whether Government have received applications for permission to go to Japan and if so, their decision on those applications; and

(d) the steps that Government propose to take to enable such people to proceed to Japan at least for a short period to enquire after their belongings and relatives?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers does not yet permit the entry into Japan of non-Japanese civilians, other than those on occupation duty, because of the difficult living conditions and lack of accommodation.

(b) Government are aware that a number of Indians have commercial and property interest in Japan, though they are without information of their precise number.

(c) A few applications for permission to go to Japan have been received. Most of these have had to be rejected in view of the prohibition already mentioned. One Indian was allowed to visit Japan to bring back certain members of his family who were unable to travel to India without escort; one more case has been referred to the S.C.A.P., whose decision is awaited.

(d) Government are keeping the position under review, and will consider whether relaxation may be obtained in particular cases of exceptional hardship.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it not a fact that many American traders and businessmen and industrialists are already there in Japan?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There are certain vague reports to that effect. I do not know if they are true.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member enquire and ascertain the true facts?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I shall certainly enquire, but from whom.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Government take steps to get into communication with the Supreme Commander and get his permission for sending a small deputation, consisting of two or three people from India who may be authorised by all interests concerned to go and examine the position in Japan with regard to property, trade goods and relations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Does the Honourable Member mean some kind of official deputation to go and enquire into the matter?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: A non-official deputation from among those interested in things mentioned in part (b)?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We shall consider the suggestion.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: To protect Indian trade interests will the Honourable

Member persuade the Supreme Commander to allow a few traders and business men to go to Japan to study the conditions there and take steps to protect their interests?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That is the same question as was put just now which I have answered.

SCHEMES FOR POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT IN COORG

953. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state whether the Coorg Administration has submitted to the Government of India a list of schemes with reference to Post War Development in Coorg?

(b) If so, what is the estimated total cost of the proposed schemes?

(c) What is the financial reserve the Coorg Administration has for implementing these schemes?

(d) What contribution do the Government of India propose to give to Coorg in this respect?

(e) When are these schemes going to be implemented?

The Honourable Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru: (a) and (b). The Chief Commissioner, Coorg, has submitted a five year development plan for Coorg. The estimated total cost of the Plan is about Rs. 60 lakhs.

(c) The Coorg Administration hope to contribute about Rs. 25 lakhs from their own resources.

(d) The Government of India have provisionally allotted Rs. 25 lakhs as development grant to Coorg during the first quinquennium.

(e) Some schemes have already been started during the current financial year while others are to be implemented from 1947-48 onwards.

SALARY OF ELECTRIC LIFT DRIVERS

954. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With reference to the reply given to my starred question No. 285 asked on the 13th February 1947, regarding the rates of pay of permanent lift men, will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lifts in operation in the different Government buildings and the number of permanent lift drivers; if the number of the latter is smaller than the number of lifts, on what establishment the non-permanent lift men (i.e., lift drivers, lift mechanics, lift cleaners, etc.) are borne and whether Government propose to place on the table of the House a statement showing the rates of pay given to such men;

(b) whether it is a fact that accidents involving physical injuries to lift men occur from time to time; if so, the number of such accidents and the circumstances under which they occurred during the last five years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the lift-drivers have to handle an electric motor of 440 volts in operating the lifts and if so, whether they have been recognised as operators of a power-driven machine; if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reason why, in spite of the technical duties of the lift staff and the risk involved therein, they have been classified with the ordinary inferior staff in the matter of pay; and

(e) whether the question of the salary and conditions of service of these lift drivers, lift mechanics and lift cleaners is being examined by the Pay Commission; and if so, whether these will be revised on the recommendations of the Pay Commission?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) 28 lifts are in operation in different Government buildings and the number of permanent lift attendants is 16. The non-permanent liftmen are borne on the regular temporary establishment. A small staff employed on the Western Court Lift is shown against work-charged establishment.

A statement showing the rates of pay given to these men is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Three accidents have taken place during the last five years. Two cleaners got their fingers slightly injured in 1942, in trying to remove cotton waste while the hoisting gear was in motion, and by the counter-weight while cleaning the bottom of the lift well respectively. The third accident took place in February 1947 when the cleaner accidentally got his arm jammed between the counter-weight and the bracket which holds the lift "guides".

(c) No. Lift-drivers are required to operate pilot switches of the Electric motors, which are fixed on the roof and are remote controlled from the lift cage. These attendants have nothing to do with the main power unit, and have not been classified as operators of the power-driven machine.

(d) Except the mechanic and Fitter who are technical and classified as Superior Staff, no other lift staff have to perform technical duties in the true sense of the term, and they have therefore been classified as ordinary inferior staff, like other unskilled labour.

(e) The Central Pay Commission are examining the question of revision of scales of pay of all categories of Government servants and as such the pay of the lift staff also will fall within the scope of their recommendations.

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Statement giving scales of pay of the lift staff

Permanent staff

Ministry	@ Rs. 60 p.m. (fixed)
Lift attendants	@ Rs. 25 p.m. (fixed)—Old entrants.
Lift attendants	@ Rs. 22 p.m. (fixed)—New entrants.
Cleaners	@ Rs. 15 p.m. (fixed)

Temporary staff (Regular establishment)

Mechanic	@ Rs. 55 p.m. (fixed)
Fitter	@ Rs. 40 p.m. (fixed)
Lift attendant	@ Rs. 22 p.m. (fixed)
Cleaner	@ Rs. 15 p.m. (fixed)

Workcharged staff (Western Court Lift)

Mistri	@ Rs. 30—2—40—3—100
Lift attendant	@ Rs. 25—1—45—2—55
Cleaner	@ Rs. 14— $\frac{1}{2}$ —22

Mr. N. M. Joshi: When the number of lifts to be worked is much larger than the number of liftmen, why should Government keep a large number of liftmen as temporary instead of making them permanent?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: In the P. W. D. a certain number are made permanent, others are kept as temporary and still others are work-charged and the proportions go on changing from time to time. The matter has now again been taken into consideration and I hope the lists will be revised in the light of the report of the Pay Commission.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that there were three accidents which took place recently, have Government taken any measures to prevent these accidents and in the case of the two accidents mentioned, did Government give any compensation?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: There was only one accident recently this year. The other two took place over five years ago. They were purely due to carelessness on the part of the cleaners. They were purely mechanical accidents due to carelessness, and not caused by electricity or anything of the kind. The man is now in the hospital and as soon as we receive a report from the Civil Surgeon, the question of compensation will be considered. The cases are all governed by the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether the opinion that this accident was due to carelessness was that of some Government official or a Court?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The opinion of the superior officer who enquired into the accident. The matter did not go to court.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Was the matter enquired into regularly?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir.

COMPENSATION TO INJURED LIFT CLEANER

955. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a lift cleaner of Lift No. 13 in South Block of the Secretariat had his hand severely injured and arm bone broken on the 19th February 1947, as a result of an accident to the said lift;

(b) whether, in view of the above accident, Government will re-examine their reply given to my starred question No. 285 on 13th February 1947; and

(c) whether any compensation is being given to the lift cleaner mentioned above and whether the expense for his treatment is being paid by Government?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes. On 19th February 1947 one Dabir Haider, lift cleaner, sustained injuries while cleaning Lift No. 13 in the South Block. Details of injuries are awaited from the Civil Surgeon.

(b) The question of pay referred to in the Honourable Member's question No. 285 of 13th February 1947 will be considered in the light of the report of the Pay Commission. There appears to be no other point for re-consideration.

(c) The case for compensation to the Lift Cleaner will be taken up on receipt of the medical report from the Civil Surgeon. Like other Government servants, he is being treated free of charge in the Irwin Hospital, where he was admitted after the accident.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN SHIP BUILDING INDUSTRY IN BENGAL

956. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received any representation from the Government of Bengal asking their help, encouragement and assistance in the development of Indian Shipbuilding Industry in Bengal principally under Indian capital, control and management; and

(b) if so, what is the policy of Government in this respect?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: This question concerns the Department of Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to them, and will be answered by the Honourable Member in charge of that Department.

957. ***Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of employment exchanges opened throughout India;
- (b) the number of officers and staff employed in the various offices;
- (c) the percentage of Muslims therein;
- (d) whether officers are sent to England for training in managerial service; and
- (e) if so, how many have been so sent and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The total number of Employment Exchanges opened in British India so far is 70.

(b) The total number of Managerial and clerical staff employed in the various Exchanges is 233 and 888 respectively.

(c) The percentage of Muslims in the Managerial staff works out to 24.9 per cent. As regards the percentage of Muslims in the clerical staff, it is regretted that separate figures are not available. At present consolidated statements showing the communal composition of the staff in the various regions are received from the Regional Directors, who are responsible for ensuring that the orders regarding communal representation are followed when making recruitment in the various offices under them.

(d) Yes.

(e) So far 14 officers have been sent to the United Kingdom in connection with the working of employment exchanges. Three of these were Muslims.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that some labour organiser and officer connected with British Trade Boards and Labour Exchanges was brought here in order to organise these things, where was the necessity for Government to send these fourteen people to England for this so-called managerial office training?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: We cannot keep on foreign elements all along and have to train the Indian element to take up the work afterwards.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE RULES

82. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Articles prescribed in the Auditors' Certificate Rules are designed to give a practical experience of Accounts to a candidate;

(b) the special reasons why the experience of audit of Government, Commercial and Quasi-Commercial undertakings is not recognised for the purpose of enrolment on the Register of Accountants maintained under the Auditors Certificate Rules, when such a concession is allowed to Government Servants in Great Britain by the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors in their bye-laws; and

(c) whether the interests of the Accountancy profession and of the investing public in England are different from those in India?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member seems to have a misconception of the Articles of Association and bye-laws of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors, which do not allow the concession referred to. Article 6 of the said Articles only refers to the occupation of the applicant at the time of application. The alleged differentiation does not in fact exist.

(c) No.

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

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 21—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

Conditions of Indians Overseas

Beth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan):
Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Commonwealth Relations' be reduced by Rs. 100."

On this motion I wish to discuss the problems of Indians overseas. At the very outset I wish to mention that as India is going to be free very shortly the whole problem has to be seen now from an entirely different angle. Hitherto

12 Noon. Indians living in this country and outside were considered to be British subjects, and whenever we wanted to get any grievances of Indians living in other countries redressed we had to approach the British Government. We know the British Government did very little in this respect; but now as we are going to be a free country we have to see that our brethren living in the commonwealth and other countries enjoy the same rights,—economic, political and social—as those enjoyed by citizens of free countries. As to how that is to be achieved I wish to make a few suggestions. First of all I wish to point out that the two departments of Commonwealth Relations and External Affairs should not be kept separate any longer. Besides that they should be reorganised with a better and bigger staff. I do not want any retrenchment or economy as far as these two departments are concerned. Secondly, I want that our representatives should be appointed in all those countries where there is an Indian population. Thirdly, I want that good-will missions should be sent every now and then. Sir, it is a well known fact that we have very little information with respect to our brethren living outside India, and the information that we have is also not very authentic. Without full data very little can be done and also without real contact much can not be done. The suggestions that I have made will enable us to have full data of the population that is living abroad and we shall also be able to establish real and better contact.

After these general points I now wish very briefly to deal with some of the major grievances of Indians abroad. With regard to South Africa I wish to congratulate the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations and also the delegation which was sent to the U. N. O. on their great achievement. Previously this question was not dealt with in the way in which the Honourable Member has dealt with it and the success which we have achieved at the U. N. O. is a unique success. I do not wish to say much on this point because the today is very delicate. No doubt the statements made by General Smuts after his return from the U. N. O. are most unsatisfactory. Last year when I moved an adjournment motion with respect to South Africa I said that General Smuts has become very greedy of power in his old age, and today I feel the same as I felt then. He may be able to keep power in his hands in his life time because he has become very old; but I want to warn the white population of South Africa that if the present attitude of that population persists South Africa will not have any place in the civilised world, and as far as the U. N. O. is concerned they will see that they are dealt with more severely in its next session.

With respect to East Africa I wish to point out that the present immigration policy of Kenya is most injurious to the Indians and it should be opposed. There are restrictions not only with regard to purchase of lands and property in what are called the highlands there—that is an old grievance—but even in Mombassa and Nairobi where the Indians could purchase property, these restrictions have been imposed. Something is to be done in this respect also. Again,

[Seth Govind Das.]

Sir, in Tanganyika there is a scheme of development of agriculture and industries. I have received certain communications from there which show that Europeans, though they are in a microscopic minority in Tanganyika, are managing things in such a way that the Indian interests would be jeopardised; and I want that as far as these schemes of agriculture and industrial development of Tanganyika are concerned they should be well scrutinised before any opinion in this respect is given by Government.

With regard to Burma, the Honourable Member in reply to a question this morning said that as far as elections to the Constituent Assembly are concerned, because they are going to take place shortly, nothing can be done now. I hope, Sir, that when future elections take place something will be done to see that Indians get the franchise there.

Then Sir, we have also to examine the disabilities of Indians in Ceylon, Malaya, Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad, British Guiana, Jamaica, and Canada. We have to see that the Indians who are there do get, as I said at the outset, full rights of citizenship.

In conclusion I wish to make two more suggestions: Firstly, we should never demand or agitate for any exclusive rights for Indians in any land. We have to see that our lot is merged with the indigenous population of different countries, and they also improve with our help. Secondly, we should arrange for some scholarships to students of both Indian community and other communities who are living in other countries. We should call those students here and give them education, so that better relations may be established between this country and other countries not only of this generation but of future generations also. I hope the Honourable Member in charge of this Department will see, as he is already doing, to these things, so that as soon as India becomes a free country our nationals abroad will also get their full rights of citizenship there.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Commonwealth Relations' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Member for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations): The cut motion presumably is a motion of some kind of criticism or censure of Government. I must confess that the Honourable mover's cut motion is, if it is an impeachment, a very soft impeachment, and personally I welcome it not only on this occasion but on other occasions when subjects dealing with Indians abroad are brought up to this House. I welcome these opportunities because it is right and proper that this House should take a lively interest in the interests of Indians abroad. They look to us, and sometimes they look to us even more than our own people, because they are cut off, and the distance lends a certain charm to the Indians overseas.

I shall briefly indicate one or two matters to which reference has been made. First of all, the Honourable the mover asked us that the External Affairs Department and the Commonwealth Relations Department should not be kept separate. I agree entirely with him, and I might inform him and the House that they are not going to be kept separate. In fact they are being amalgamated. Secondly, he said that they should be reorganised with better and larger staff to which he added that in this particular instance he did not wish economy to be considered at all. Well, it is not for me to say that economy should not be considered in this matter, but undoubtedly they have to be reorganized, they have to be enlarged, because thus far these departments have dealt with very limited number of questions and with a very small number of countries. The External Affairs Department in effect dealt with the tribal areas and some interests in the Persian Gulf or round about there. It really had nothing to do with the external world. Then it started dealing with the United Nations Organisation and some

other International Conferences. Now it is spreading out to all countries and thinking in terms of Embassies, Legations, Trade Agents, Consulates, etc. Obviously this requires a vast establishment and it must be enlarged.

Then he said that we should have representatives everywhere. We agree in theory, but I should like the House to realize that this cannot be done quickly and suddenly; It takes time. The technique of it takes time—approaching other countries, getting their agreement, discussing the type of representative to be exchanged, and then choosing the personnel, and so on. We have, as a matter of fact, drawn up a kind of priority list, but we find thus far that we have not been able to give effect to it. For instance, we had decided that within six months certain countries should have our representatives, and in the next six months some more, and so on, but we had to face a considerable number of difficulties and we have not been able to give effect to it thus far. As a matter of fact, at the present moment—if I may refer for a moment to External Affairs—the demands made on us by various countries of Europe and America, chiefly South America, are such that we cannot fulfil them. We are not just in a position to fulfil them immediately. The House knows that Mr. Krishna Menon was asked on behalf of the Government of India to visit various countries in Europe and to convey our greetings and express our desire for exchange of diplomatic representatives. He has done that work with exceeding ability and success indeed with so much success that we are hard put to it to follow it up, because almost every country which he visited has sent us sometimes vague, sometimes definite and formal proposals for exchange of representatives, and it has gone far beyond our priority list. There is no doubt that we must have representatives everywhere. The only question is how long it will take us to do it, because it is no good at all doing it in a casual manner. I am anxious that our foreign service should be a first class service, especially in these early days when we are laying the foundation of it. Later on, one can take risks in the matter, but if the beginning is bad and unstable then the subsequent additions to the structure are going to be very bad indeed. I appreciate completely, as Honourable Members have repeatedly pointed out, that qualifications for the foreign service are very stiff. Obviously the fact that a person has got a first class in the University does not necessarily mean that he is going to be good at a diplomatic job, nor does it mean that a person who has got a second class is going to be worse than him or may not be better than him. That is perfectly true, but situated as we are some kind of rough and ready tests have to be laid down for the initial stages because we want to avoid this watering down of the level. There is no doubt that we shall keep good men, and we will not take men who are not so good, but some tests have to be laid down, and if we do not lay down those stiff tests and leave it to the sweet will of persons to choose them, then there is a great danger of personal likes and dislikes and I want to avoid that. But at some later stage we may reconsider this matter and see how far we can get suitable candidates as a result of other tests. The Honourable Member mentioned about goodwill missions sent abroad. I take it that he was referring chiefly to what might be called the Colonial territories (*Seth Govind Das*: Yes), because in the other places there is absolutely no need to send goodwill missions, though we may occasionally send a trade mission. In regard to these places we do want to send—we may call them Goodwill Missions or Fact Finding Missions—anyhow missions to keep in touch with our people there, bring us data and help in establishing closer relations with them. In fact we are thinking of having representatives there but if there is some delay in that, we might send small groups to go about some of these rather out of the way places and make the Indians there realise that we are thinking of them. As a matter of fact some two or three months ago the Commonwealth Relations Department broached this matter and we communicated with the Colonial Office in London in regard to establishing our representatives or agents in some of these colonial territories and also to send some missions. I regret to say that we have not received an answer yet in spite of reminders. What the delay is due to, I do not know. But normally speaking,

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.]

in such matters these offices take a long time, because they make references to the colonies concerned and communication is very slow.

Then, again, the other day a question was asked: I think it was about Mauritius and unfortunately I could not give the exact figures. Immediately after or during the last session we wrote letters to enquire and no answer came. Then we sent a reminder and they said that they had not received our previous letter and we do not know what happened to the previous letter. Even on this occasion we could not give the exact information and the information we have in our departments is so completely out of date that I feel very greatly ashamed to answer some of the questions put here. So it is quite essential that we should have closer contacts with the Colonial territories.

In regard to the foreign service, I might say that our conception of the foreign service is an inclusive service, containing in its ranks almost every person who represents India in any capacity, in any official or governmental capacity. Obviously that means a diplomatic service: it means the consular service, it includes also trade representatives, though obviously the trade representatives would necessarily also deal directly with the Commerce Department. But demonstrably it will be one service and you cannot separate the economic and other matters from the diplomatic matters. In fact nowadays the consul's work is primarily economic and commercial and is very little concerned with visas and the rest. There should then be this general service but that service will deal with separate departments in order to facilitate work.

In regard to the various countries, to which reference was made, I do not want to say much about South Africa, because this subject has come before this House on many occasions previously I should like to mention that we propose to do everything in our power in accordance with the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to find a solution for the problem of Indians in South Africa. Much has happened in South Africa since the Resolution was passed, which has not been agreeable to Indian ears and which has irritated Indian public opinion. Nevertheless, we have remained silent, because we do not wish to create any difficulties in our path, so far as we can, in the way of a proper solution. That proper solution obviously can only be on the lines of the United Nations Charter, on the lines which influenced the United Nations General Assembly to pass that Resolution, when they found that the South African Union Government was not acting up to the provisions of that Charter. We cannot accept any position of inferiority or segregation in South Africa. Nevertheless, we are prepared to consider this question with anybody, including the South African Government, if it so chooses, because this responsibility has been cast upon both of us by the United Nations General Assembly. We have waited for the last four months or more since the passage of this Resolution in the General Assembly of the United Nations for the South African Government to take the initiative, because it was for them to take the initiative: it was against them that the Resolution was passed: they have been acting wrongly according to the United Nations Assembly and they should seek to set matters right. They have done no such thing yet. Still I want to say to this House and to others who may hear that we are prepared to consider this question and to make every effort subject of course to the fundamental principles I have stated and by which we stand. We are not going to stand on any question of prestige in regard to talking about or discussing the matter with anybody at any time.

In regard to East Africa, I can say very little, except that the House will remember that we sent a Mission headed by Kunwar Maharaj Singh last year and they came back with a report which has been published. The new Immigration Bills, although not specifically aimed against Indians, obviously affect Indians more than anybody else and they contain various very objectionable features. We have objected and protested to them, although I must confess that I was very reluctant sometimes to go on objecting and protesting without any or much

result. I feel that our objection would be much more powerful, if we had some other sanction behind us in our own country. Obviously the main sanction is independence. As a matter of fact I may tell the House that the fact of Indian independence coming has worked in two ways. On the one hand, naturally, it has raised the morale of our own people abroad and on the other hand, the other people realising that India is going to be independent soon, have begun rapidly to take some action before India becomes independent, in order to push through legislation, obviously since it might be more difficult for them to do it later on. So we have to face these two facts, one against the other. However, we must deal with this question wherever they arise. In the smaller colonies like Mauritius, Fiji and Guinea conditions are more peculiar still. Virtually they are Indian colonies. In some of them the majority of the population is Indian. Now what is going to happen to them in future, I do not know. Again this very fact that the majority of the population or a great number of them are Indians comes in the way of Indians being treated fairly there, because they feel that if they give Indians fair treatment, the Indians would practically become the dominant community in that area. Some of these factors are coming in the way inevitably and the problem will have to be solved to some extent.

There is another difficulty. As soon as India is completely independent the question of Indian nationality has to be considered. Is an Indian in Mauritius to call himself an Indian National or a Mauritius national? That will be for him to choose. Many of the Indians have lived there for three or four generations, for a hundred years or more. They do not even know India: they have never been to India. That is a question for the future. But this question of nationality is in a sense coming up now. Honourable Members should remember that Indians from Burma, Ceylon, Mauritius, Fiji and elsewhere have still not got out of the habit of thinking in terms of their common nationality, which is connoted by the somewhat unfortunate expression "British Subject". In law whether one was an Indian or a non-Indian he was a British subject, whether he was in India or in England or Fiji or Burma or Ceylon. These questions did not arise previously. They are arising now, not only because India is on the verge of independence but even in the Dominions like Canada and Australia they are now emphasising the aspect of Dominion nationality. That is, a Canadian national will have certain rights which no other person will have even though he might be a British subject. It is a kind of dual nationality which is going on at present. This dual nationality is likely to become more and more separated. A Canadian national will be a Canadian national and little more. So also an Australian national or a national in any other part of the British Commonwealth.

Now, this question affects us intimately in regard to the large number of residents in Ceylon, Burma, Malaya and anywhere else. It is very well to say that our people have been disfranchised in Burma. But is he a Burmese notional or not? Does he consider himself an Indian national or is he merely a visitor, a sojourn in Burma, carrying on business, looking at India as his homeland and coming back to it? If so, it is quite natural for the Burmese to think of him as a non-national and not as a Burmese national. In fact every single Indian in Burma, Ceylon and elsewhere will have to decide this question, namely, whether he wishes to continue as an Indian national or whether he wants to adopt the nationality of the country where he is. Naturally, even Indians who are Indian nationals, if they remain in Burma, must be treated properly and must have all rights. That is a different matter. But if he is an Indian national he cannot claim all the rights, voting etc., of the Burmese national. He has no right, if he is an Indian national, in that limited sense to claim the right to frame the constitution of Burma just as we would strongly object to non-Indians framing the constitution of India. It is an identical position.

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.]

Now, the difficulty arises in Burma owing to the fact that no choice has been given and no division has been made. For my part I will be quite satisfied if every Indian was given a chance of saying freely whether he wants to be an Indian national or whether he would be a Burmese national. If he says 'I want to be a Burmese national' he should be accepted as such. If he says that he wants to remain an Indian national, then he has no further demand for franchise, of voting privilege there. He has other claims which no doubt should be supported. At the present moment in Burma undoubtedly the qualification laid down for voting for the Constituent Assembly there has been unfortunate. It limits Indians greatly though not so greatly as Honourable Members may think. But it does limit them very considerably. Since we heard about it we protested. May I also mention one other fact to this House in this connection? In all such matters when we deal with Ceylon or Burma or with any other similarly situated country we have given up the habit of protesting to the Governor or to the British Government. We do not go to the Colonial Office or to some office in London to protest against the Burmese or the Ceylonese Government. If we protest, we protest to the Burmese Government or to the Ceylonese Government. We do not want to make others our judges or arbitrators between us two. Therefore, we carried this matter formally and informally to the Burmese Government—to the Chief Minister and other Ministers. We discussed at length with them and they told us that they felt that an injustice had been done when this statement was made in London. They instructed their law officers and they said "It has become practically impossible for us in the course of the next six weeks or so to make any effective and radical changes in this matter, but we do assure you"—(and this assurance was given in public)—"that this thing will not cover the franchise for Indians in the New Constitution which we shall consider fully with you and with your representatives". I might mention that this matter was very ably handled by our Representative in Rangoon, Dr. Rauf, and he is continually pursuing it. Although this unfortunate decision has been taken the attitude of the Burmese Government—of the principal Ministers there—has been extremely friendly and co-operative in this and other matters. That is a pleasant change from the old attitude we were used to in regard to Burma.

One other matter, Sir. The Honourable Mover mentioned that we should never demand any extraneous rights for Indians in any of these countries. That has been our policy and that is going to be our policy. We are wholly convinced that it will be entirely wrong and objectionable for us to demand, say, in any African territory any rights which would be to the disadvantage of the Africans there. The rights of Africans must come first in Africa just as the rights of Indians must come first in India. As a matter of fact there has been a very happy change in the relation of Indians in Africa with the people of Africa. There has been growing co-operation between them in their respective demands and their work.

Then, in regard to scholarships I think the Education Department has already arranged for some scholarships from East Africa to East Africans who come to India. We are thinking of encouraging Indians in those territories also to come to India—some selected students—and to offer them scholarships for higher or technical education. In effect I believe that whatever the Honourable Mover wanted us to do has either been done by us or is in the process of being done.

* Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the motion so ably moved by my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das. I would not like to take much of the time of the House before we disperse especially because the Honourable Mover has covered a wide field and nothing much remains to be said by me.

I would like to point out that the position of Indians overseas, particularly in those islands which are far away in the Far East and other places is indeed deplorable. Let those Indians far away from us realize and feel that the Government of India and Indians in India do remember them, do realize their difficulty and that they are fully alive to do their best to see that their grievances are redressed and that their conditions are improved. It is indeed a very good idea to establish trade and cultural connections with those countries. I for one feel that especially those Indians from overseas who are now in India should be allowed to visit those countries. For instance I know that there are in India so many Indians who have been in Japan during the period of the war and they are now unable to go there. There are several restrictions in their way. These restrictions should be removed. Whatever the reasons may be, Indians who are now in India who have been there, or those Indians who are in India and have their relations there and want to visit those countries, should be allowed to visit those countries.

Secondly, Sir, the idea of sending goodwill missions is indeed a good one. I personally see no objection why this mission should not be sent as this will help to solve some of the difficulties. I am sorry that the Honourable Member in charge is absent. I personally feel that these missions should not be mere pleasure-trip missions. The Honourable the Leader of the House has said that the Maharaj Singh Report has been published. No doubt the difficulties are there. But the matter should be pursued further and further until such time as the grievances are redressed. The matter should not rest there; it should be pursued.

Thirdly, in those countries where we have no Representatives at the moment, especially far away places where there are lot of Indians I fully agree that Indian Representatives should be appointed. I would not like to go into much details as to who should be appointed, particularly because this question has been fully considered the other day in a Resolution which was moved in the Council of State. But I do feel if non-officials are to be appointed it is but fair and necessary for the Government of India to see that representatives from all parties in the country are appointed to these posts. I am indeed very glad that the Honourable Member in charge is doing everything he can to ameliorate the condition of Indians overseas. I heartily congratulate him. I do hope and feel that he would see that the matters go further on and that the position of Indians is much better than what it has been in the past. Sir, I support the motion.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the very satisfactory reply of the Honourable Member in charge, I withdraw this motion.

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 54—BROADCASTING

WORKING OF THE BROADCASTING STATION AT PESHAWAR

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I move:

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

Before we proceed to consider this motion I would like to point out that we Pathans are almost 95 per cent. illiterate. Therefore the only way to educate us is through our ears. The Pathans have an all round love for music and they would travel ten miles on foot through outlaw infested country to

[Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:] ~~He is not a singer.~~
 listen to a concert. Therefore he is more at the mercy of the A.I.R. than anybody else. An illiterate man has a very attentive ear and a very retentive memory. Therefore to us the Broadcasting Station is really an oral University. Its effects on our life and actions are much more important than in the rest of India, because the rest of India can read also and we can only hear. The Provincial Government has supplied thousands of free radio sets to villages in order to bring the light into their homes and has thus made the Broadcasting Station a live force in our existence. Yet how does the A.I.R. deal with them. We have a station in Peshawar, that is good enough to give broadcasts in Pushtu for four hours out of a total of 11½ hours of broadcasting. Those four hours include news also and what does this station broadcast in these four hours. Sir, the Peshawar Station is a Punjabi colony. Almost all the officials are Punjabis who do not know how to say 'Good morning' in Pushtu. They have a cordial contempt for the Pushtu language, and for the Pathan. They do not know how to fill in these four hours and who can blame them. The Government of India has sent them because they have nowhere else to send them. They have got jobs and they must be provided for and the fact that they do not know Pushtu is sad but it cannot be helped. The Peshawar station talks not only to us in the Frontier but also to the 3½ million tribesmen in the tribal territory, also 8 million Pathans in Afghanistan. The Peshawar Station is inhabited by officers who would faint if you took them outside the barbed wire that surrounds the cantonment and surely we deserve better treatment than this at your hands. What is the result of this foreign invasion on our music. It is frightful. Could I be expected to give the Madrasis an excellent musical programme? You switch on Peshawar on our radio and you expect to hear something that will express the staunch and rugged soul of the Pathans. What do you hear instead? A Punjabi Greta Garbo singing Pale Dulali with a variety of squeeks and yells that remind us of spring and puppies. I would request the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting to deliver us from the dancing girls of Lahore. The sooner the better.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech after Lunch.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Sir, I stopped just when I requested the Honourable the Home Member to deliver us from the dancing girls of Lahore. If the A.I.R. is bent on stamping a national colour on every province of India, then we would not mind provided a few hours of Pushtu and a few Pathans are sent to every station in India and give a few hours of broadcasting from there. But if you mean to talk in the language of the people who listen to you, then it is senseless to send Punjabis to us, station for Pathans. You might just as well depute Mr. Lallubhai to teach Arabic to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. It is not funny, it is tragic. There is only one officer in the Peshawar station who is a Pathan and he is a very insignificant Programme Assistant. The Director and his Assistants, though perfectly educated and highly musical, know as much about the Pathans and their language as I know about the hipopotamus and his grunts.

Allow me to repeat what I said to Sir Akbar Hydari when he was Member for Information and Broadcasting last year. The fact that I can repeat the same to a Member of a popular Government is bad enough. I had said that

you may have an outsider for roads or planning or engineering or industry but you cannot have an outsider for music and propaganda. They are so deep and subtle and such an intimate part of the history and growth of race that no outsider, however, gifted he might be, can ever dare to understand them. In the name of ordinary human decency, may I appeal to the Member for Broadcasting to spare us. If he cannot turn the Peshawar station into an interpreter of our culture and a teacher of our principles of living, then he must shut it down. The money could be better spent on agriculture or drainage. It would be far better for the Pathans to have cabbages instead of erotic expeditions to throw the world in warm flesh and country liquor. I am not asking Sardar Patel for the moon. I am only objecting to a cross between Mary Stopes and Bibi Nurjahan being circulated all over the province as a model women for the Pathans to follow, love and worship. If the Government of India feels it necessary to speak to us and also to present a picture of our life and history to the world, let it provide for a true representation. Though the beautiful dancing girls of Lahore and the hiccupping masters of Indian classic are no more representatives of the Pathans than the lusty braying of a donkey is a picture of the song of the nightingale, I do not mean to pretend that our music and life is an essence of culture and refinement, but I do submit that the picture distributed by the A.I.R., Peshawar is not a true picture but a crooked and twisted lie. We expect better things than this from a National Government. Let the Pathans run their station for better or for worse. Let them speak like Pathans. Let it be put down as a basic principle by the Information Department that the Director of any station should be chosen from the people who will have to listen to the station. In the Centre you can have a cosmopolitan staff. The Centre station has an exclusive audience, but the provincial stations go to the villagers and the villager must know what the Radio is talking about before it begins to do him any good.

We really must change the old system. It will hurt some people and will harm some people; some of them may lose their jobs, but we must get out of this old senseless rut not only in this department but everywhere else.

I have another grouse too. In the plan of expansion for the A.I.R. they have made a provision for broadcasts of Persian Persian and Afghan Persian for Iran and Afghanistan respectively. This illustrates the utter stupidity of the person who drafted the plan. The official language—the court language—of Afghanistan is Pushto and the language of 8 million Pathans is Pushto. Persian is spoken by the Persians and the Persian snobbish aristocracy of Kabul, a transplantation of Nadirshah. What is the point of forgetting 8 million Pathans in Afghanistan and 8 million Pathans outside it and bringing a programme solely for a few hundred over-fed Persian sardars. 'Afghan Persian', the very name is stupid. It is like saying English English and Madrasi English, or, as the Madrasi put it, when he said that there are two varieties of cows, the bull cows and the cow cows. So, Afghan Persian should be eliminated from the 8 year plan and its place given to Pushtu. Every member of the Delhi-Pushtu section and the Peshawar Station must be a Pathan, except, of course, the technicians.

• The third and the most important point is that the Peshawar station must speak Pushtu. We do not want to get embroiled in your Hindi-Urdu *Jhagra*. When you finally become the proud possessor of one language, we will give it the place of honour in our programme. But until then let us broadcast Pushtu, a language that is understood by Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs alike on that side of the Indus. I am not asking the Honourable Member for a favour but the barest of justice. I know he is a villager just as I am a villager. Bardoli and Hashnagar are the two places that put the most magnificent peasant struggles for the liberation of India. I am only asking him to think of that peasant not only in Bardoli but also in Peshawar.

[Khan Abdul Ghani Khan]

The city people of India have cinemas, circuses, theatres, processions, public meetings, to entertain them. The only thing that reaches the villager is the Radio. The spoken word education as against the written word education is an essential and very important means of education and especially go in a predominantly illiterate country like India. As I said, the city people have many things including comfortable things like central drainage, tarred roads and electricity, but this one source of entertainment, this instrument of education, should be used chiefly for the benefit of the villagers of India. If you admit that India lives in her villages and not in her cities, you will see that my request is not so unreasonable. I want the Peshawar station to speak the language of the people who listen to it. How can a teacher run a school when he cannot understand the language of his pupils? The usual plea of the A.I.R. is that among the senior staff there is no one who knows Pushto. We are supposed to console ourselves with the fact that the present Director has had Pathan ancestors in the distant hoary past. I say send a Bengali or a Gujrati there who knows the language and the people. I do not want a Pathan. I want a man there who will speak the language and who will know the people. If Sardar Patel does not agree with me, then he ought to appoint me the Director of Madras Radio Station. I am as well educated as any of his Directors with *Shantiniketan* thrown in and I am as great a master of Tamil as our present Director is of Pushto. So, where is the difficulty? I am sorry to have to drag this unfortunate Director. He is not a personal enemy of mine; I rather like him. He plays on the *Tabla* beautifully and he is a very remarkable singer. But he does not know Pushto in spite of his Pathan ancestors. His immediate assistants are just the same. They are little geniuses, no doubt, but they are from Madras or Bengal or Punjab or somewhere else. I would request the Honourable Member to give the Pathan a chance. After all we have shown more political intelligence than the rest of India during the last twenty years. Except Hazara who are not Pathans, and were connected to us like an appendix, because the delicate rulers of the Frontier wanted a hill station where they could escape from the heat of Peshawar sun and the Pathan temper into a heaven of files and pines. This appendix, Sir, has been septic from the day it was born and when all the province is in the Congress Hazara is in the Muslim League. If all the province has no riots, Hazara must have one or two. If we have a riot today, Hazara will join the Unity conference tomorrow. If we join the Muslim League, tomorrow Hazara will come and take the oath of non-violence at the feet of Mahatma Gandhi day after tomorrow. I am grieved to see that the septic tonsil has induced a fever in the body of the Pathans. But the Pathans are of rugged build and will get over it in spite of the appendix. May I take this opportunity of appealing to the Muslim League to stop this senseless movement in the Frontier which they are trying to pass off as a movement for civil liberty. It has degenerated into merely an organised communal riot. If you have a message to give to the Pathans it is better that you give it in a language that they understand and that it is given by one of their own people. It is as important to know whom you are talking to as it is to know what you are talking about.

The Peshawar station speaks to you, very important neighbours, the trans-frontier tribes and Afghanistan. The Peshawar station is a more important and more effective ambassador of India than any you would send to Kabul. It deserves a little attention though it is far away from Delhi and can boast of only one vote in this House. Sir, I move this Cut Motion. If I do not get a satisfactory reply from the Honourable Member, I will not withdraw my Cut Motion. The millions of Pathans who have sent me here certainly deserve more attention than one Party Whip if it is listened to. If the Party Whip alone is to be listened to all the time, there is no meaning in the word demo-

crazy in India. The Honourable the Home Member has proved himself a reasonable, wise and sympathetic man in spite of his reputation to the contrary. I hope he will see the justice of this Cut Motion and remove the cause instead of removing the Cut Motion out of his way. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

“That the demand under the head ‘Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100.’”

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting): Sir, it is a matter of great satisfaction that the All India Radio is attracting greater and greater attention, much more so that it has attracted so much attention even in the remotest province of North West Frontier. Now, whether the Honourable Mover withdraws his Cut Motion or not, I promise him that his speech, at least the substance of it, will be reported in Pushtu bulletin today. Now, avoiding humourous similes and irrelevancies, I shall say that his complaint can be divided into two parts, firstly that enough time has not been given for the Pushtu language and that the staff of the Broadcasting station is not indigenous or that all the staff are not Pathans. His apprehension is that the onslaught of the neighbouring Province in the matter of staff as well as language and culture and perhaps something else also which I shall not enumerate here. I can only say that the appointment of higher officers, i.e., the higher appointments—are all made on an all India basis. Perhaps he forgets that the officer in charge of the All India Radio was a man from the Frontier for nearly 12 years. I do not know whether anybody complained that the All India Radio was ruled by a Frontier man up to now. If the sub-station of Peshawar was neglected it was neglected during the time of the Frontier man. Therefore he can have no grievance against the Interim Government. Now, we have also a Director of the Bombay Station who is also a Frontier man. We have now on the staff in the Frontier, a Director who is Frontier born. I do not know whether he recognises him as a Pathan or not, but he is a Frontier man.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: He was born in Gujrat, he pretends to be a Pathan. but he is really a Punjabi.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Now, we have not yet passed any law about naturalisation of the Frontier. Indian Naturalisation law is yet to be enacted. But on our record we find that Mr. Niazi, the head of the Frontier Broadcasting Station is a Frontier man. You just coax him to learn Pushtu. Get a good man as his teacher. We shall ask him to take some tuition from you and we will see if after six months' trial, he does not prove himself to be qualified in Pushtu or certified by you as a qualified man fit to be placed in charge of Peshawar station. If he does not prove his merit in Pushtu, we shall have to transfer him. Besides the Director, there are eight Programme Assistants. Out of eight Programme Assistants, two are non-Pushtu speaking, and three are Pushtu speaking Programme Assistants. There are three vacancies for which orders have been passed that Pushtu speaking people alone should be appointed. So, out of eight Programme Assistants, we shall have six Pushtu speaking Programme Assistants. They are really the men that matter so far as the common people are concerned.

Now, about the time, well up to now, there were three hours given to Pushtu out of a programme of nine hours 45 minutes. Now according to the recent orders which have been published in a Press Note on the language question which was discussed the day before yesterday, 50 per cent of the programme is given to Pushtu. Therefore ample time will be provided for this purpose. After that there should not be much grievance. I may also add that the programme published according to the recent Press Note has been fixed in consultation with the Frontier Province Government. They have accepted it *in toto* and if they have endorsed it. I think my Honourable friend should have no grievance. Besides this the Frontier Government have been

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

asked to get into touch with us in the matter of news bulletins and programmes. If they have any complaint they have simply to write to us. Besides that also, the Frontier Publicity Officer has been asked to keep in touch with the All India Radio, and to send his complaints telegraphically. But although my Honourable friend here is so much vocal, the Frontier Government never speaks and never answers any calls.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: The Publicity Officer is not a Pathan and he is in the same boat as the Director.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: He may not be a Pathan. But he is so pathanised that he also does not say anything in reply to our communications. If my Honourable friend has any grievance, he has simply to move the Frontier Government and send his complaints to us and these complaints will be promptly attended to. If any more complaints are there he has simply to write to us, because the Frontier Pathan is easily satisfied and pleased with little things and small gestures are enough for him. So he will have no complaint so far as the radio is concerned; if he sends in a complaint it will be immediately attended to. But he must understand that the appointments are made under certain rules. We cannot make appointments straightaway; we have to go through the procedure of the rules and through the Public Services Commission. We cannot remove and dismiss the old staff. Since I have taken charge I have heard numerous complaints about the staff of the broadcasting stations. Some say they are almost all Muslims, others say that the Muslim proportion is not enough. Some say that Urdu culture is being smothered while others say Hindi culture is being smothered. Some say Kanarese is not given a place at all and if Pushtu is given a place Kanarese should be given preference and priority. I have promised priority to Kanarese and so others may have to wait for some time. It is a difficult proposition to please all. We have an eight-year programme for the expansion of broadcasting facilities all over India. Even so we have complaints as to which station should be taken up first. It is very difficult to satisfy all. But it makes us glad to see that people are taking greater interest in broadcasting facilities and we shall do our best to satisfy all the legitimate desires and demands of the people. And now as I have promised the Honourable Member that the substance of his speech will be broadcast today in Pushtu I hope he will withdraw his motion.

Khan Abdull Ghani Khan: Sir, it is not because of the promise that my speech will be broadcast in Pushtu but because of the promise that he will give the Director six months and then remove him if he is found unsatisfactory that I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The Cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. II—CABINET

General policy of the Defence Department

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

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

On this motion I wish to discuss the general policy of the Defence Department.

It is rightly said that the fortunate ones who dabble in public affairs pass through three stages: first they are agitators when they are confined to the hustings and the street corners; then they become politicians when they join the opposition in a legislature; and at last they flower out into statesmen when they sit on the Government benches. The Finance Member and the Defence Member have successfully and comparatively comfortably passed through all these

stages unlike others on their as well as other sides of the House. And now when they are statesmen they find themselves in a safe position and they utter all sorts of threats in this House and outside. Yesterday we had the unseemly sight of even a person like our respected and Honourable friend the Supply Member losing his temper at some remarks made by some members of the House which he was speaking because those others were not feeling at one with him in all that he was saying.

Then, Sir, you will remember and the House will remember, that on one occasion in the course of the many speeches that he has delivered on his financial proposals, the Finance Member also got his wind up and said, "I am not going to be threatened; I am not going to be hustled; I am not going to withdraw any of the proposals that I am making." And I was wondering how it is that Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan whom... ..

An Honourable Member: He is not Nawabzada now, plain Mr.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In my province a person is called a Nawab not only because he has received a title from Government but because it is an affectionate expression for all good and great men. And then retainers and others like myself call their minor sons Nawabzadas!

Now, Sir, as one who has known the Nawabzada—or Mr. whatever he likes to call himself—for a good long time and known him as a perfect gentleman as in the manner born, I was rather surprised when he used such threatening language, and I wonder how it is that he uses that language. And when I found that in this budget he has reserved 188 crores worth of men and material to force his wishes down the throats of this House and of the world outside, I realised how and why he could change both his manners and his opinions. And I can assure Honourable Members in whose salaries—and if not in salaries at least in travelling allowances—I want to make a cut of Rs. 100—and who have honoured me by being absent this afternoon showing the importance that they place on a cut like this—that they need not indulge in any threats at all, that we are here with them more or less and that we are willing to help them if they want to be helped and that they should not forget their own opinions that they expressed in the past nor their own experiences.

Sir, the present Government loves to call itself a Cabinet; that word has been officially approved of and appears in the budget papers; and in fact it appears even in my cut. If it is a Cabinet why does it not depend on the vote of this House rather than upon the army? Why is all this expenditure non-voted? Why is it all threateningly printed in italics showing to the world and to us that we cannot interfere with a pie of it? I say the proof of the pudding is in the eating; and if political parties are today clamouring to be given dominion status and to be treated as a dominion Government, let the Government that represents them be bold enough to come to this House and say: "We will regard every vote that you give as a vote of confidence, and if you do not want any expenditure to be incurred we shall agree to it." Why ask to be a dominion Government and say you are a Cabinet responsible to the people and responsive to public opinion, and then take shelter behind the bad law under which we are ruled and say that the whole thing is non-voted?

That is a thing that I cannot understand. All this bloated budget is supposed to be due to the bad legacy of the war, but the war was not our war and this Government consisting of parties that definitely declared themselves against that war, should come forward and say that as that war was not their war therefore they are not bound with the liabilities and the commitments that were made by those whose war it was, and that they will not be responsible for the meeting of those liabilities and the fulfilling of those commitments. Let those whose war it was, meet the difficulties and pay for them. I think Sir, it is upto this Government to repudiate all those liabilities and to claim to be an independent

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State. If this war had been our war Mr. Churchill, as the Prime Minister of England, would not have declared from the housetops that he was not there to preside over the liquidation of his Empire and that he meant to keep that Empire. The war was fought at least so far as his country went for the maintenance of the Empire and for continuing their holdup on the world, and therefore it is not we who should be made to pay for it.

If any proof was wanted as to whether we did or did not regard this war as ours, we have only to recall the events of 1940 when we were asked to go and proclaim in the public streets, in town and country alike, that to give a man or a rupee to this war was as a sin, and in consequence so many of us had to go for long periods in jail simply because we said these words in public. If that is not proof enough of the fact that this war was not our war, I do not think any one could bring forward another proof more convincing or forceful. It is a pity that those who go about in other lands as our Ambassadors or our Agents or our Representatives now refer to our so called sacrifices in this war and on the basis of those supposed sacrifices, ask for many favours and many privileges. We cannot build up the edifice of our freedom on falsehoods; and if we were against this war our representatives everywhere should declare that that war was none of our seeking and that we were against that war.

The English Chancellor of the Exchequer, Dr. Hugh Dalton has been saying that he is going to present a formidable bill to us for having fought our war, for having defended us. Whenever we raise our claim for the sterling balances, he wants to threaten us by saying that he has even a heavier counter-claim to make. I do not know how the Government is going to meet it, but I should say that the war was not our war in any sense and that we were not defended by them in any way. In fact we were crushed; we were humbled; our leaders were sent to long terms of imprisonment; and the whole country laid low under their iron heel. Any one who knows the true history of India from 1942 to 1945 will bear me out when I say that, and to proclaim that they defended us is a travesty of facts. We were smothered; we were ruined; we were not defended.

Let us look at the budget. Formerly our defence budget used to be of an average of 46 crores per year. In 1938-1939, which was the last budget circulated before yesterday, the budget is of 50 crores. Today it is 188 crores. The figure shows that the effective services require 192 crores and the non-effective about 12 crores, making a total of 204 crores. There is a sum of 15 crores which are expected as receipts, thus the total net expenditure comes to 188 crores. Formerly also we had to pay about 58 per cent. of the revenue to the Army and today also the same proportion is being kept up. Out of 324 crores we have to pay 188 crores.

I know there is this trouble of inflation; I know there are heaps of currency notes floating about; there is a lot of artificial money. Therefore I shall fix your attention and the attention of the House on the proportion. The proportion is the same today as it was before. Russia and America are suspected of having imperialistic designs in the coming world. Russia's expenditure is 18 per cent. only today of its gross revenue on the Army, and the United States is going to spend 33 per cent. of its gross revenue on its forces. If these two countries can do with such small proportions for their revenue for expenditure on their defence, I cannot see why India cannot do with less than 60 per cent. In the six years of the war, instead of 300 crores that we might have ordinarily spent, we actually spent 2000 crores of rupees. I ask, Sir, can a poor country stand this expenditure?

It has been the demand of our leaders through the decades, that the expenditure on the Army was much too much, and it is time that when the representatives of the people are in power, they should see to it that the

expenditure on the Army is considerably decreased. The other day I ventured to ask the Defence Secretary as to what the soldiers like when he said that soldiers do not like to be summoned to help in civil commotion. He then threatened to read out a whole list of the duties of soldiers as his reply to my query. I was not asking what the soldier's duties were. I was asking what do the soldiers liked to do; for we know that duty is something which we have to do whether we like it or not, and most of us do not like our duties. So duty is a harsh expression.

I wanted to know what the soldiers like to do and the whole thing came out in the course of an answer to a question and the supplementaries to which he was subjected. It was the case of an assault made on a club in Jhansi by some soldiers; and he confessed then that they arrived there 'in a merry mood'. That is what the soldier likes; that is not his duty; I take it it is his pleasure. And then, Sir, from his reply—and I am rather cute at these things—I gathered this: the soldiers go there; they see two girls dancing together; they do not like that, and make an assault, because the European system of dancing requires, as far as I know and as far as I have seen, that a man and a woman should dance together and not two members of the same sex. They naturally saw no justification for two girls to dance together. The scene upset the soldiers for they said that instead of their dancing together, the two should detach themselves from each other and dance separately instead with two of themselves. As the girls did not like that, there was all that trouble.

Really we do not need this extraordinary expenditure on the army. We know that there is a tremendous amount of wastage in the army, that the standards of life of our soliders is made artificialy high, that it is not in keeping, with the ordinary standards of life as lived in India and in the classes from which they are drawn. Therefore we feel that the expenditure should be curtailed considerably.

There is another thing that the soldier likes and that is the parade. The other day there was a parade, where George Crosses were given to some persons who, I fear, were unworthy of receiving them. We shall have more on the subject when we come to a question about it. But between parades and dancing we feel that we cannot afford to spend 188 crores.

I may be asked: what are your definite, concrete proposals, as members of the Government are very prone to ask. First of all we should have peace with the world. We should declare that every other country is our friend. We should sign treaties of peace with every one. That is the first thing that I should do. Then I should have conscription. I should call upon every adult man and woman to undergo certain definite military training, so that he or she may be ready in any emergency to help not only in civil commotion but also to defend the country against external aggression. I say that I should put down roughly 20 crores for the standing army and 20 crores for conscription.

I am not going to make the budget of expenditure before I look at the income. I shall find out what my income is before I embark on expenditure. That is what an ordinary prudent householder would do: that is what any prudent state should also do. We shall do as much as we can with and under these two sets of 20 crores. That would bring down our expenditure at once from 188 crores to 40 crores. It is no good first of all saying "I will build myself a palace" and then going about looting innocent people in order that that palace might be built. That is not the way in which I would go about the business. That is the surest way to ruin. It is the rake's progress and that must be stopped.

I therefore feel that if we went about the business in a sensible, common-sense manner, we can balance the budget. We can also fit the people to take care of themselves. We can defend our country against internal commotion and external aggression. It is no good expanding and ever expanding departments of Government. It is no good making it impossible for anyone outside

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Government service to live. The whole endeavour seems to me to expand government services, to create new departments and never to abolish any departments, even if they are useless. That is why all these expenses have been going to this unmanageable, unthinkable, unfathomable and uncheckable extremes.

We want in our country independent professions also. They are the salt of the earth. It is not only the government servant that counts: it is the non-government servant who has also a definite position. And the way Government is going is only leading to a desire on the part of every one to join some one department of the government or the other. Let not the soldier be a mercenary, who in the words of Bernard Shaw, 'is hired to be shot'? Let him be a soldier who loves his country, who is willing to lay down his life for his country, who is not fighting for the few rupees that he gets but who serves in the army because of the inherent affection that he has for the land of his birth. That is the way in which you can call up from human nature the best that there is in it.

3 P. M.

You have got the example of the Indian National Army. They did not fight so well when they fought only for money. But when they became soldiers of a national army, they put their heart and soul in their fight and lived almost on starvation diet and did their very best to win the lost independence of their country. That is an example before us. We do not want every one to become a government servant.

My Honourable friend the Supply Member yesterday was defending his subordinates in the service. He said that every one of them has so many sons, grandsons and relatives. That is the way in which the Government is trying to rope in every one: that is the old system. If a person joined a political party, let us say, then a local official would come and threaten to do some harm to some distant relative of his who was in government service.

That is the way in which Government has roped in most of our people. About 2 per cent of our people, I understand, are already in Government service and with our large families, unfortunately, they can count about 20 times as many in the form of dependents and other who are also dependent on government service. In this way masses of our people are dependent upon this Government. That is not the way in which a people can prosper. That is not the way in which we can find our feet in this world. I say this defence expenditure is monstrous: it must be cut-down: it must be stopped. We must not, at least as far as lies in our power, allow more than 40 crores to be spent on the defence services. We must beware of the tentacles that the Government is spreading in order to catch us all and lead us to virtual slavery.

With 188 crores out of our revenue of 324 crores going to the army, what would be left for the development of all those services which help to build up the nation? What is the amount that they are going to spend on education, what on medical relief. How can they spend anything on these services, when the octopus of the army is ever present to devour every thing that we can make. The Honourable the Finance Member said that he was going to help the poor. In this budget I see nothing that would help the poor. He is attempting to balance the budget by inflicting more and more taxation and bringing more and more people to ruin. That is not the way to do things properly and well.

If he would only make up his mind that he can get out of people without inflicting any harm on them only so many crores of rupees, then he can safely go about spending those crores of rupees on various departments of government. I can assure him and assure every one of his colleagues, that he can do nothing so long as he allows 188 crores, that is 60 per cent. of the whole of the State revenue, to go into the army. If he thinks that in the years to come he would be able to contract the army, that he would be able to spend less and

less on the army, he is mistaken, because these departments of Government can never be extinguished: they grow and grow. He must take a firm stand at once. I do hope that the House will see where it is being led and beware of what is coming.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

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

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Sir, I rise to whole heartedly support the cut motion moved by my friend Nawabzada Sri Prakasa—that is the title given to him by the Honourable Members of this House. I am very sorry to see, Sir, that the Honourable the Defence Member is absent on this occasion. I do not know whether he is in the town. But as I heard, in the Council of State on a similar occasion like this he was absent. I want that he should treat this subject and specially the discussion that takes place in this House on this subject as important and enlighten us with his views on these matters that are discussed on the floor of this House.

I need not go much into the details with regard to the expenditure on Defence as the mover has dealt with it at great length and explained to us and we are more than satisfied that there is something wrong in the matter of the expenditure in defence problems. I said the other day in my speech on the discussion of the Budget that the Defence expenditure was very high and I referred to the financial incompetence of the Defence Department. There is a heavy establishment at present in the General Headquarters. I do not see any reason why there should be such a big staff which requires, as I said the other day, 42 pages to be taken in the telephone directory. The defence expenditure at the moment is indeed very high, compared to what it was before the war. Now that the war is over I see no justification for the same expenditure to continue any longer. I am very glad that the Honourable the Finance Member while replying to this question the other day assured us that he would personally see that the defence expenditure is cut down. I feel that at least 10 per cent of the expenditure should be cut down straightaway so that we shall have saved at least Rs. 18 crores and the heavy taxation which is now proposed will be lightened to a certain extent. For an instance I would quote that there is a contract to buy one cruiser from His Majesty's Government. But I am told that the Government of India propose to buy three cruisers. I see no justification for this when we are obliged to buy only one under the contract.

I personally feel that this big question of defence expenditure should be placed before the Defence Consultative Committee and the advice of its members sought. I am sorry to say that this Defence Consultative Committee seems to be a Committee only on paper. I have had occasion to talk with several members of the Committee and I have come to understand that this Committee meets very rarely. The object of this Committee when it was originally appointed was, that the Defence Consultative Committee which represents the Members of this House will be consulted on matters of importance. But what do we see? Since the session started the Committee has met once. It was elected a year ago and it has only met thrice. I think the Defence Consultative Committee should meet frequently—at least once a month—and it should be the duty of the Defence Department to consult this Committee before the Government takes any steps whether in matters of expenditure or in respect of broader policies affecting the Department. It was rather surprising the other day when I put certain questions to the Honourable Defence Secretary to be told that certain matters are secret and that they cannot be placed before the Defence Consultative Committee. What is the use of having a Committee in which you have no confidence? I feel the Government of India should take this Defence Consultative Committee into their confidence.

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Then I would refer to the question of troops overseas. As we are all aware, there are a large number of troops which have been sent to Japan. The expenditure incurred over this item is indeed very great. I see no justification for the Government of India to bear this expenditure. Either withdraw these troops straightaway or see that no further expenditure is involved on this item. I remember when troops were sent overseas, to Iraq, Iran, Malaya and other places, this expenditure used to be borne by His Majesty's Government. I do not know the reasons why we should be saddled with this expenditure. I also feel that the troops which may be sent overseas in future should not be sent without consulting the Defence Consultative Committee, this practice of sending troops overseas without consulting this House should stop forthwith. We have on the floor of this House in the past criticised the policy of the Government of India in sending Indian troops overseas without consulting the Legislature. I hope in future this practice will cease.

I shall now refer to the question of the Nationalisation Committee. As far as I am aware this Committee came into being without the consultation of this House or without reference to the Defence Consultative Committee. I should like to know what is the policy of this Committee and what is the new policy of this Committee going to be, especially after the recent statement of His Majesty's Government. As we all know, powers are going to be transferred to Indian hands next year. I am very glad that the Honourable the Defence Member is here and I welcome him to this House. I hope he would enlighten us on all the matters that are placed before the House by the Members of this House. I should like to know what will be the future policy of the Indianisation of armed forces, especially after the recent statement of His Majesty's Government. Personally I feel that control of the army should definitely remain in Indian hands, but I feel and believe that the question of withdrawal of British officers should be gradual and slow. Until we have sufficient officers of wider experience to arm the army I personally feel that the British officers should to a certain extent remain in India for some time to come. I do hope that this Nationalisation Committee will give careful consideration to this question.

With regard to the Indian Air Force I suggest that the technicians should be all Indians. At the same time I feel that the extent of the squadrons that we have in India should be increased. I am informed that we have ten squadrons at the moment. I feel that this is rather a small number and should be at least doubled. I do not know the reason why trained technicians should be demobilised. They should not be demobilised in as quick a manner as is being done at present. With regard to the aircraft that is now being used I suggest that we should have the best American aircrafts. As we now see, the airways in India are importing very good aircraft from America. These are much better than we have ever had before. I do feel that better aircraft should be given to our people for their training. At the moment I see that single machines are used. I feel that the latest machines should be used by our people. For operational purposes the latest types of American machines should be used. In view of the greater responsibilities to be shouldered in future it is important from the point of view of defence that our air force should be given a chance of using the latest machines.

I have just said with regard to demobilisation that it has no doubt been very necessary but, as I said, in view of the recent statement of His Majesty's Government the position should be reconsidered.

In the matter of naval officers the ratio of demobilisation at present is 68 per cent whereas the army is being demobilised 33 per cent. I feel that in the matter of the navy the demobilisation should not be so rash as it is at present. I suggest not to get rid of qualified officers who are serving in the navy at present, for it will be very difficult to get experienced officers to

replace the officers who are going to be demobilised. The development of the navy should be on a greater scale and the importance of the navy should not be underestimated. We should have a large number of destroyers and submarines. India has hardly any at the moment. I feel that training should also be given to the crew of India in the matter of operating submarines and destroyers.

Now, Sir, I would refer to the question of Civil Ordinance Officers—a question which we discussed only yesterday morning. I was not quite satisfied with the case put forward by the Honourable Defence Secretary and I am sure none of us are satisfied. At the moment as I am informed, 135 notices have been served for the discharge of the people out of whom 35 are going to be discharged today. The Nationalisation Committee has recommended after very careful consideration that these notices should be cancelled and that a corresponding number of junior British officers should be sent away. This recommendation of the Committee has been overlooked. I hope the Honourable Defence Member who is present here this afternoon will explain to us the position in regard to the serving of these notices and I hope he will consider very sympathetically the question of withdrawing the notices on these officers. We were told yesterday on the floor of the House that these British officers hold technical qualifications. I am told by those officers whom I had the pleasure of meeting recently that there are a large number of Indian officers who do hold equal qualifications, the same qualifications as the British officers and I personally see no reason and no justification whatsoever for this serving of notices and asking them to quit. In view of the assurance yesterday that no more notices will be issued to these officers, is it not fair and just that the 135 officers now under notice should be given the chance of selection along with the other 800 civilian officers. In view of the assurance, is not Government taking up a self-contradictory position, when on the one hand they allow about 800 civilian officers to take the chance of selection as promised and on the other hand they deny the same chance to these 135 officers for no fault of theirs. I would like to ask one question of the Defence Member. Is it not a fact that these 135 officers have also undergone the same intensive and elaborate course of training as the other officers? Have they not done the same jobs with equal if not more efficiency? Above all have they not been selected by the Federal Public Service Commission and are they not graduates, double graduates and perhaps triple graduates?

Now, I would like to raise the question of the percentage of Muslims. Originally the total percentage of Muslims was 4 per cent. for Ordnance Officers in the department but later on it was made up to 25 per cent after recruitment through the Federal Public Service Commission. I would suggest to the Honourable Member that when he is about to retrench these officers he should bear in mind to keep the quota of 25 per cent of Muslims when the selections are made and they are prepared to go before the Federal Public Service Commission when the matter goes to them for the selection of those who are going to be retained.

Now, Sir, one more word, while we are on the subject of defence expenditure. I would like to point out the position of business men in the country in regard to the services which they have rendered to the army in India. I have received various letters and representations from different merchants, particularly from the Southern Command, wherefrom I come. I would like to bring to the notice of the Defence Member who is fortunately present here that most of the contractors who have served the army in the matter of construction of buildings, supplying transport of cars and buses, have not been paid their bills which amount to lakhs of rupees. They are being sent from pillar to post. The contracts were fulfilled more than a year ago. Now the war is over. The Garrison Engineer says that they should go to the Area Office. The

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Area Office says they should go to the Military Accounts. Then they are asked to go to the General Officer Commanding in Chief and now they are asked to go to the General Headquarters. There is a definite contract entered into between the army and the contractors. There is a definite liability on the part of the Government to pay their bills and they should be paid at once. I do not see any justification why their just claims should be overlooked. Now, they are told that the matter must be referred to arbitration. I feel that there is no reason for arbitration. They should be allowed to file suits against the army and recover their outstandings.

One word about the position of the officers of the I.M.D. who held emergency commissions during the period of the war. These officers have proved their ability professionally and administratively and have fulfilled the requirements of regular senior officers. They were appointed to senior administrative appointments in the General Headquarters. They were given specialist appointments and in some cases were advisers to Commands and even held such appointments in the General Headquarters.

It is understood that very shortly these officers are to be reverted to their pre-war status of Warrant Officer but are to carry out duties equivalent to that of Captains and Lieutenants. Is it presumed that these officers are incapable of acquiring the responsibilities of Senior Officers, namely of Majors or Lt.-Colonels? If so, how is it that at the present moment they are being employed in such administrative appointments—namely in command of hospitals, units and D.A.D. Ms.

It has been stressed that these officers were qualified and able to hold commissioned appointments in the Service during the period of the war and have been well reported on. It seems ridiculous and arbitrary to suddenly designate them as unqualified and that they should be brought down to a subordinate status just because places have to be found for younger men. These men have given the best part of their lives to the Service, and are now placed in a position where they are not given an opportunity to choose or decide but are forced to accept the lesser evil and take a position which but for their loyalty they might have been able to better.

It is understood that these officers are not being given favourable terms to opt out of the service and as such will be forced to continue in the Service or forfeit the benefits of a number of years. For example, no man below 21 years' service can hope to draw a pension. Their contemporaries in the I.U.L. who are Europeans, are getting very much better terms.

It is understood that all emergency commissions for the I.M.D. alone are to cease on the 1st of April, while even British Emergency Commissioned Officers attached to the Indian Army, and Navy may continue to carry such commissions until October. If this is so, it is most unfair, as the terms for the reversion of these officers have not yet been published, to revert them to a subordinate status without giving them enough time to decide on their future. Sir, I have done.

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia (Punjab Landholders): Before I go on to deal with the Defence Budget, I may be permitted to refer to the last speaker who has just spoken who has referred to the absence of our Defence Member. If I may say so, the absence was not because our Defence Member wanted to be absent but because of certain happenings which my province has recently gone through. As regards the causes of that, I should not like to say anything. It was due to these happenings that the Defence Member had to go to the Punjab and that was the reason why he was not here but now I find that he is already here.

Mr. Sri Prakasa mentioned—why is it that this Government of ours has not come to this House and got a vote on the Defence Budget. If I may say so, the reason is not far to seek. After the end of the war, two years have passed and I find that the Government have still not prepared any plans regarding what the future of our army, air force and navy is going to be. What I mean is that as yet they have not decided what their future strength is going to be. Unless they decide this, they cannot proceed further. This is borne out in this memorandum on page 4 of which it is said that no final decision has yet been reached regarding the size and composition of India's post war armed forces. It would obviously be a waste of time and effort to give meticulous details and information regarding the features of this estimate. I wonder if they think that it is waste of time and effort to think of what the composition and size of our future defence services are going to be. I hope not, because I am quite sure that our present Government which he says he is a Cabinet and is working for the good of India, will do their best to make these defence services what they should be in a free India. I should like to add that the policy which has been followed before this Government took over was the policy which was enunciated not in India but from a place which, as you say, is across the seas, I mean from Whitehall. It was a policy which was followed not for the benefit of India but for the benefit of a foreign power. I daresay that the policy that our National Government is going to follow now will be to have an Indian army, an India Air Force and an Indian Navy for India and not for any other power. I would just like to mention a few figures here regarding how this foreign power has worked and manipulated this Department that it has been used entirely for the benefit of England or Britishers and not of Indians.

Before the war started—I speak subject to correction—the British officers in the Indian army numbered 200 only. This number gradually increased. I daresay the Defence Department will say that the number was increased because of a war which was not of their making. But the facts are that from 200 that figure stands today at 1,500 officers. Now, let me see how these officers are employed? I would just take the case of one Headquarter, which is a pointer to what is happening in others. I am going to take the Air Headquarters, India. In 1939, I believe, there were only 18 officers running this Headquarter. Today I find that, though a certain number of people have been sent away, that number stands at 350, approximately. So, the increase is from 18 to 350. It is more than 15 times. I admit that the Air Force has expanded. I also admit that formerly where there was just one squadron of the Indian Air Force, there are now about ten. But surely 350 officers running a Headquarter which was formerly run by only 18 is too much. Even if the figure had been increased four-fold or five-fold, it should have been round about 50 or 80, but 350 is much, too much. It shows also that these heavily over-staffed people have not got enough work to do there. Again, out of these 350, if I am not mistaken, 70 per cent. of them are British officers. That is how the British officers, the numbers of which have been swollen to such an enormous figure, are employed. They are employed not in fighting units but sitting down on kushi arm chairs in Headquarters and asking the other people to fight or do the work for them.

There is another point which I want to bring to the notice of the House and that is the morale of the R.I.A.F. I have had a talk with quite a few of the officers and I have no hesitation in saying that it has gradually gone down and the reason which my Honourable friend Mr. Jaffer, who is not here, hinted at is perfectly true, namely, they are getting obsolete and unreliable flying machines. I am sure the Department would come out and say that they have got Spitfires. Spitfires, I admit, are good machines, but they have got several marks. The Spitfire 14, with which the Indian Air Force has now been equipped, are not good machines. Only two squadrons in the R.A.F. are

[Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia]

equipped by these machines and I believe they too discarded them about a couple of years ago. These machines have now been given to the Indian Air Force as one of the very first line aircraft. These machines are utterly unreliable and, if I may say so, they are obsolete. If you give our pilots these machines, no wonder their morale is going down. I would suggest and support Mr. Jaffer's suggestion that machines for the Indian Air Force should be of the very first or very best available. We should not confine ourselves to machines only from Britain. We should get the best from wherever they are available, and, as he suggested, America is not a bad proposition. This reminds me of another thing, and that is the step-motherly treatment which has been received by the Indian Air Force at the hands of Air Headquarters, India which is manned entirely by the R.A.F. personnel. I remember, when the war started, the Indian Air Force, although comprising of only one squadron, was equipped with Wapities. This aircraft, I believe, originated in the last Great War. It reminds me also of what the Americans used to call them. They called them "What-a-pity", and that was very true. We passed that stage and the R.A.F. at that time were coming to the 'Hurricanes' and the Indian Air Force was re-equipped, as they say, with 'Harts' and 'Audaxs', which were made somewhere in 1922, and this happened in the year 1939. These were supposed to be modern machines for the Indian Air Force then. Let me carry you a bit further. What happened when the 'Lysanders', with which the Indian Air Force was re-equipped later on? The R.A.F. discarded them. They did not know what to do with them and they found a very convenient method of handing it over to the Indian Air Force. With these examples; it is clear that the Air Headquarters has been functioning not for the benefit of anybody in India or for their services, but for the benefit of services which do not belong to India.

Now, I would take the House to another point and that is regarding equipment. I find on page 5 of this memorandum:

"Under the operations of this settlement,—(meaning war time financial settlement)—"the great bulk of defence expenditure was debited as incurred to H. M.'s government but India subsequently gave credits to that government for her share of such expenditure."

This shows that His Majesty's Government incurred the expenditure but the India Government was never consulted. They later on asked the India Government to make good the money. In this equipment, I dare say there is quite a lot of equipment of surplus stores which the Indian Air Force even, with its obsolete machines does not require. I hope the Honourable the Defence Member with his usual vigilance will see that this surplus material which is not required by Indian defence service is not palmed off to India.

I see that my time is coming near. I have a lot of things to say. I shall only touch upon the most important ones in passing reference. I find there is quite a lot of duplication of work in General Headquarters. I have not got ample time at my disposal to refer to all the different kinds of duplication. I will briefly mention them. There is the Resettlement Department which is very nearly doing the same work as the Labour Department. The one is the military and the other is the civil department. I see no reason why both these departments should not be amalgamated and thus a lot of expenditure saved for defence budget on that head alone. Similarly there are many offsprings of war. The welfare department and the Morale Department. Formerly before the war, the Adjutant General used to perform both the functions. I do not see any reason why he should not do so again and the two departments should come under his jurisdiction. I am quite sure he can do that with a very much decreased staff than he is having at the moment.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Government of India: Nominated Official): The Welfare Branch created during the war has been abolished.

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: I am glad to hear of it.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): But grants are still being given. To that extent my Honourable friend has not stopped that.....

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: I have not got time for allowing these interruptions. I must proceed with my speech. I have got quite a lot to say. A very senior officer of the Air Force made a pleasure trip in a service aircraft at Government expense which is entirely an unwarranted thing, it is against the rules and regulations.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Who is he?

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: He is A.O. C.-in-C., I believe, it was only last Saturday that he along with his wife and I dare say a couple of friends who were civilians went over to Agra from Delhi at 3 P.M. I do not know for what purpose they went there. Perhaps they went to see the Taj by moonlight, because they returned at eleven O'clock at night. Here is an example of a senior responsible officer who is expected to enforce discipline in the force behaving like this. Do you know whom he has replaced? He replaced the Air Marshal Sir Rodrick Carr, who I know from personal experience was all out for the Indian Air force. He said so many times that he was anxious to hand over the Air Headquarters to an entirely Indian personnel. I believe two officers from England visited India, they are the Inspector General of R.A.F. and another Air Member who was an Air Chief Marshal and they visited India, I hope not at Government expense and when they came here and heard the views of Sir Rodrick Carr, probably they got enraged and he was served with notice to quit in 24 hours as being unfit to hold charge of the administration. But, Sir, who was responsible for the administration of the Indian Air Force even during the time of Sir Rodrick Carr. It was the present A.O.C., because he was A.O.A. at that time. Well, if he is dubbed as a good administrator, then God help India, and Air headquarters. The old Air Chief was therefore pushed out and the present fellow promoted for the simple reason that the former was a pro-Indian and he wanted the air force to be handed over to Indian personnel. Incidentally I may mention that the starting of a Transport squadron in the Indian air force was his idea. No one else did it before. Formerly they said there are 10 I.A.F. squadrons. They were all Fighter Recce squadrons. What a balanced Air Force. It was he who started off that you must have a balanced Indian Air Force and he gave definite orders which have materialised now. Now you have made a beginning with one transport squadron. He was doing an honest job of good work for the Indian air force. I believe that is the reason why he was turned out. One thing more before I sit down. I would request that the pay question of the service personnel should receive very careful consideration at the hands of our Defence Member. There have been quite a lot of people who are leaving the Indian Air Force because they are getting better pay outside in civilian jobs. I would like the Defence Member to see that the service personnel are rest assured that they will be paid nothing less than what their civilian counter-parts are paid at the moment. If this assurance is forthcoming, I am quite sure that the present state of affairs which exist in the Indian Air Force will soon be remedied. If my memory serves me right, at the present moment, there are no more than 20 aircrafts men belonging to Group I and the basic reason for this small number is that they are not sure what their future is going to be and what their service conditions will be. If some sort of assurance is given to them the panic would go. They are all afraid whether they would be retained in service or not. Air Force is very essential for the defence of India.

Sir, with these words I support the Cut Motion moved by my Honourable friend Shri Sri Prakasa.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated: Non-Official): I feel sure that I echo the sentiments of this House when I welcome the Honourable the Defence Member and I need only tell him that we expect great things from him, and

I believe we are not unreasonable in our expectations. The first point that I should like to refer to is a point suggested to me by a remark dropped by my Honourable friend Mr. Jaffer. He asked the Defence Member to bear in mind communal proportions in the composition of the Indian army. Sir, I am the last person to deny or attempt to repudiate the needs of any community. But so far as the army is concerned I make an ardent and earnest plea that he will set his face strongly against any suggestion or implication of a communal composition in the army. I believe that if we have to be grateful to the British for anything we have to be grateful to them for giving us an army which is non-communal in spirit. I believe that any one who has the interests of this country at heart will realise that if we attempt to let in even remotely any suggestion of communalism, we will be opening the flood-gates to forces which will destroy inevitably any chance of maintaining—as we should maintain—a completely reliable and integrated fighting force in this country—a fighting force which will rise above any sectional or sectarian differences in this country, a fighting force which should be the only guarantee not only as regards internal security but as against external aggression. And in this respect I would like to ask the Honourable Defence Member as to what extent the proposals of the Willcox Army Reorganisation Committee have been implemented. I know—I believe I am correct in saying—that that Committee also stressed this point, that progressive measures must be implemented to make the army completely non-communal in character; and with this object in view it was suggested that the few existing communal units should be scrapped and that all battalions should be built up on an entirely non-communal basis. It was conceded for the purpose of administrative convenience, for the purpose of catering for different needs—perhaps religious needs—that we may have different companies recruited from various communities; but that was the greatest concession that the Willcox Army Reorganisation Committee was prepared to make to communal demands. I might mention here that although the Defence Department has only very recently come under the control of one of our own people there is an increasing disappointment with the attitude of that department,—not personally so far as the Defence Member is concerned but more perhaps as regards the attitude of his department. Some people feel that the change has not been a change for the better, that we are still confronted with the old official and bureaucratic complexes, that when we seek to draw their attention to very real grievances and needs for revision we are fobbed off with bureaucratic excuses and the usual attempt to justify anything, however unjustifiable it may be. My Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa asked the Defence Department to consider ways and means of reducing the tremendous burden which our Defence Estimates involve. I will only refer to one case, where in spite of the strong and definite recommendations of the Finance Department the Defence Department is seeking deliberately to flout these recommendations. I am talking of persons referred to by Mr. Jaffer. He referred to members of the Indian Medical Department; and here I might mention that it is felt that vested interests—and I say quite plainly they are European vested interests—are still powerful so far as the defence forces are concerned, and that unless the influences that these vested interests are still able to exercise are stood up to, even our Defence Department will be overborne irrespective of the real needs of this country. And that is what is happening in regard to the Indian Medical Department; and I say this without qualification. I expect the Defence Member or Defence Secretary will repudiate what I say, but I know what I am talking about and I have inside information. There is a reciprocal process of backscratching going on between senior Indian and British officers of the Medical Services. The Defence Department has not the foggiest notion of what shape its policy—if it has a policy—of reorganisation so far as the medical services are concerned is going to take. They cannot give us even the sketchiest out-

line of how they are going to lay down the reorganisation of the medical services. And yet—and I am afraid this is being justified or sought to be justified by the Defence Secretary—they are seeking, as Mr. Jaffer has said, to get rid of—I am not pleading for one community, perhaps all communities are involved—hundreds of medical men, men who have proved their worth in the most difficult and the hardest conditions—the conditions of battle. They are going to get rid of them without, as I say, knowing even remotely what their schemes of reorganisation *vis-a-vis* the medical services are going to be. My Honourable friend there will seek to tell us that these men are not being got rid of. I know that it was contemplated that they should be demobilised in March. I believe that as a result of certain intervention, that demobilisation has been merely postponed. Why, I want to ask the Defence Department, are they singling out their medical men who rendered them yeoman service at a time when they could not get enough men from civilian medical life in order to come forward and cater to the needs of the army, rendered them yeoman service and represented the lynch-pin of their medical services? Why are they treating them in a peculiarly step-motherly fashion? To begin with they are not allowing men who were 35 when they were commissioned—and they were commissioned only in 1941—to even apply for permanent commissions. They are the only department of the defence forces to which this restriction has been applied. I may also mention that they are all persons who are in regular and permanent military service; and in no other arm of the defence forces have men in permanent service had this age restriction imposed on them. There is no upper age limit; it has been waived with regard to all other military personnel. They have singled out their military medical men, and I want to know the reason. Some people suggest that they are being overborne by British interests; others suggest that it is perhaps being actuated by deliberate communalism. But whatever it is, if they go into the real facts of the case they will find that they are getting rid of these men, men who are today commanding hospitals, men who hold the highest professional and administrative appointments for no justifiable reason. And why are they getting rid of them? Because after having got rid of them they will find that they have no people of the Indian communities to fill senior administrative appointments and then they will be presented with this accomplished fact that in order to maintain the stability of their medical service they will have Europeans seconded to the Indian Medical Service. I say to the Defence Department that they are not aware of the move behind this. They have, as I said, imposed this gratuitous restriction with regard to age. Then as regards qualifications during the war they accepted licentiates as graduates and commissioned them not only to the I.A.M.C. but to the I.M.S. And now they say they are only going to take in graduates. I am not pleading for any lowering of standards but I would ask them to remember the special circumstances of the Indian Medical Department. Up to 1941 they all underwent a five-year course of recognised medical study. That course was coterminous with the M.B.B.S. course but they were not allowed to sit for the M.B.B.S. examination. In getting rid of them the Defence Department is ignoring the recommendations of the Bhore Committee who said that the graduates produced during the war were graduates of the poorest type that they were rushed through in order to fill the deficiency with regard to medical graduates. The Bhore Committee has said that licentiates who have proved their worth on the field of battle should be treated absolutely equally with graduates. Even this you are absolutely ignoring; you are ignoring the recommendations of your own committee appointed by the Government of India.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel (Bengal: European): Is the Chair doing all this?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am pursuing my fault of addressing the Member through the Chair, a fault rather peculiar to me.

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony]

These persons, Sir, are the only persons who are not being allowed to defer. European officers seconded to the Indian Army are being allowed to defer till October, but you are going to get rid of these men inspite of the fact that they are permanent military personnel. I say that it is a gross breach not only of a legal contract, but it is a breach of a moral obligation. You are not even going to give them the chance given to the Emergency European Commissioned Officers. On the other hand, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Jaffer, has pointed out, you are telling them in vacuo that some of you will revert and others will be demobilized. But revert to what? As I have already said, the Defence Secretary will not be able to give me the slightest inkling of the pattern of reorganization contemplated for the medical services. If you have not yet prepared your plan of reorganisation, why are you singling out about eight hundred men for demobilization or reversion? As I have already mentioned, the Finance Department has strenuously objected to it. Here are men who have proved their worth; they have commanded officers, not only of all Indian communities but they have commanded Britishers, and yet you are going to turn them out either on the score of age or on the score of lack of qualifications.

There are two other matters to which I shall refer briefly before I resume my seat. They are with regard to the Indian Air Force and the Royal Indian Navy. I remember that this was rather a hardy annual so far as the Indian Air Force was concerned. We were told repeatedly that India has set herself the absurd target of having ten squadrons and the reason given, a reason which left completely unconvinced people like myself who had some inside knowledge of how selections were made, the reason why this enormous country had set itself a target of ten squadrons was because we could not get suitable material. I used to take the strongest exception to this. I told the Defence Secretary when they trotted out this completely unconvincing argument that even from my microscopic community because they could not get into the R.I.A.F. some three or four thousand went overseas and got into the Fighter Units of the Royal Air Force. And yet we used to be told that India could not get suitable material. I would ask the Defence Secretary to look into this matter and to take necessary steps not only for rapid Indianisation but for rapid expansion of the Indian Air Force. And so far as Navy is concerned, we are told that the Royal Navy is a silent service. R.I.N. has emulated that tradition in one respect. It has been very silent, very silent indeed, as regards the process of Indianisation or lack of Indianisation. Even when we were members of the National Defence Council, it was impossible to elicit information as to how many Indian officers the Royal Indian Navy consisted of. I have good reason to believe that even now the overwhelming strength of the R.I.N. consists of European officers. This is another aspect of Indianisation I would ask the Defence Member to address himself to.

Mr. G. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): Mr. Deputy President, Sir. My only reason for rising to intervene in this debate is to correct a balance which I think is tipped in the wrong direction. I think that we have heard a good deal about faults in the Forces, about the unnecessary size of the Forces, and about abuses here and there. But what has not been said up to now, Sir, and what I think requires to be said is that the necessity for good, efficient and strong forces still remains.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, has referred to his wish to be friends with everybody. He objects to the word 'enemy' and, Sir, knowing Mr. Sri Prakasa it is very difficult to quarrel with him and his friendly and kindly nature. But, Sir, when you are speaking of refusing to countenance the word 'enemy' you must be a little bit more certain that other people feel quite the same way about you. A one-sided feeling of friendliness carried to excess may bring one up against very serious trouble. The friendly feeling

that Mr. Sri Prakasa has radiated in this House and which he has imported into his speeches, not only about other subjects but about the serious subject of Defence, has not so far led any one in this House to suggest, for instance, the repudiation of India's share in reparations, although I rather fancy that as a gesture of friendliness that might cut greater ice with the Japanese and the Germans.

But, Sir, let me return to the subject under discussion. It is rather over quarter of a century since I ceased to be a soldier and became a civilian, but the memory is still with me of how soon, from being a hero, one became a rather unwanted civilian. I suggest, Sir, that this debate, as far as it has gone, will do nothing to destroy that impression amongst those who have served us so well over the past seven or eight years. I would like to have heard a greater reference in the course of the speeches to the debt that we owe to these people, to these soldiers, sailors and airmen. I would like to have heard a greater reference to the sorrow with which we face the necessity for their demobilization. I have listened, Sir, to a Railway Budget. It becomes a virtue in the Railway Member to tell us how very few of the large war time railway staff he has found it necessary to demobilize. On the part of the Honourable the Defence Member that would not be a virtue but a vice. In other words, Sir, while we must do everything in our power to retain in the Railway services all the war time personnel irrespective of whether there is for them adequate employment, we must disperse and demobilize every single man in the Armed Forces that can be dispersed and demobilized. We, on this side, yield to no one in our wish for economy, but I do most sincerely hope that the general wish for economy will blind this House to the necessities of the situation. We have been magnificently served in the past war years by a magnificent Army whose traditions must be upheld and maintained. I agree with the Honourable speakers who have stressed the need for the best equipment and the best training. That must surely be maintained, and, Sir, that in these disturbed times means more to me than a pinch-beck economy. That is most important and I suggest to this House that it would be wise to bear that need in view rather than the need of saving a few rupees here and a few rupees there.

While I have made that statement I may be accused of living in a fool's paradise and wishing to spend money which the country has not got. That, Sir, is a point which I do admit must not be forgotten. There must in all conscience be careful and considered economy but not such an economy as will destroy the numbers necessary for the defence of this country, the best equipment and the best training that they can have. So where can we find this particular avenue of economy that we particularly want to find. My mind immediately flies to the Disposals Branch, the disposal of army equipment which is regrettably slow. I also think of the Claims Offices taking years and years to settle the claims of people whose property has been requisitioned. I know of property in Calcutta, industrial property, requisitioned during the war, which has now been evacuated by the forces but the claims for that property still remain unsettled. I know of amenities, electric light, water and so on, made available to the troops during the period of the war (an expensive amenity in many cases) the cost of which still remains unsettled a year or more after those troops have gone. And that, Sir, seems to me to point to a rather meticulous fear of spending more than may be absolutely necessary in clearing up the mess. It is a "penny-wise pound-foolish" policy, because the delays which are occurring in getting rid of all those disposals claims are necessitating the retention of personnel, of buildings, lands and the like far longer than is necessary. The expenses that the army are still incurring on account of requisitioned property are enormous. At the end of the last year I figured that the total rent of requisitioned property alone was something like as much as the total amount of money collected for Central

[Mr. C. P. Lawson]

excises before the war. It was a very big sum and it is these delays that are causing excessive expenditure. If these delays could be eliminated, if a little common sense and less meticulous accounting could be produced, there would, I think, be a large saving in general.

Now, Sir, it is of course an old story about G. H. Q. with its forty pages out of the whole telephone book and I will not stress the point: but there is no doubt that these enormous administrative offices which have grown during the war must now be combed out and reduced. We shall doubtless hear from the War Member or the War Secretary as to what extent that is being carried out.

I do not want to waste any more time of the House and I will close after I have made two more points. First of all, in suggesting to this House for their serious consideration that they must not lose sight of the efficiency and the strength of the fighting forces, I must not forget their morale. The morale of these forces is as important as their training and as their equipment. I do not think that that morale will be inspired in the fighting forces by continual talk of cutting them down and of their misdemeanours.

I am impressed by an item appearing on page 3 of the Budget Estimates of expenditure on Defence Services. It is a very small item and perhaps I quote from para. 7 on page 3.

"Although it is hoped to maintain the scale of amenities for serving troops at the same level as for the past year, the welfare of the ex-service man and his family will certainly suffer from the closing down of the Civil Liaison Organisation and welfare workers.

It was hoped to offset this to some extent by improving the staffs of District Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Boards, but at present this has not been possible because only four of the provinces have agreed to assist in the cost of this measure. The full cost is not considered a fair charge on central funds."

Once again we embrace a "penny-wise and pound-foolish" policy; because some provinces will not play, because possibly finance is tight, these services will not be replaced and once again the fighting man who has served us so well will consider that his job now is being relegated to the background. It seems to be a pity that this situation has to be reported in the budget and I sincerely hope that the Honourable the Defence Member will find some way of replacing these services which are due to the forces on which one day we in this House and the rest of the country may have to depend for their safety.

One other word about pay. It is true, as my Honourable friend Mr. Anthony said, that questions of pay will loom very important in the matter of the future of the army and it is to my mind rather unfortunate that the decisions regarding the pay of the army are to be held up until the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission are known. It seems to me that it might be a good thing now that the Finance Member has been forced to admit that he has already received an advance copy of the Pay Commission's Report that the Postwar Committee that was dealing with the question of army pay should now make an effort to finalise its conclusions. It would be, I think, very unfortunate if it became necessary for this Committee to start its work all again *ab initio*, when the Central Pay Commission's report is produced.

I will conclude my very brief intervention with another reminder to this House. At the moment when peace reigns we may find it possible to forget and forget with pleasure the horrors which were endured in the last seven years. Particularly in the country of my birth we are apt to forget a little too quickly and in the years that follow we disarm and in fact any talk of defence subjects becomes anathema. On two occasions in my lifetime we have suffered for that attitude and our suffering will continue for many years to come. I sincerely hope that this country, and in particular this House, will not make the same mistake.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, we have heard with rapt attention the speeches which have been made by the Honourable Members of this House, and noted the points made by them. I shall try and give replies to as many of them as possible. If I am not able to reply to all the points that have been raised now it is not because of our want of will but because of the want of time.

Sir, my honourable friend began with the complaint that the Defence Budget was non-votable. Sir, that is a constitutional disability which we cannot help. I am sure the National Government would be the first to desire that the Defence Budget should be placed on the same footing as the Budgets of the other Departments of the Government of India. I am sure, Sir, that in a short time, in any case not later than fifteen months when the constitution of this country will be overhauled and India will become a complete master of herself, the Defence Budget will be votable just like the other Budgets of the Government of India.

Sir, reference was made to the heavy expenditure which was incurred on troops overseas, particularly on the Indian contingent in Japan. The House is aware that these troops were sent before the assumption of office by the present Government. The Government have recently considered the whole position and have come to the decision that the Indian contingent from Japan should be withdrawn as soon as can be arranged with the other Members of the Commonwealth occupying countries who have their forces in Japan.

I may briefly mention here the policy which this Government has now adopted in respect of troops stationed overseas. That policy is to withdraw all Indian troops overseas as soon as possible. In view, however, of the commitments of the Government of India during the last war and problems arising out of post-war conditions in neighbouring countries which were overrun and disorganised, we are prepared to allow our troops to remain where they are required for a certain agreed period provided that the countries concerned do not object and provided further that our troops will not in any case be used to suppress any national movement. In particular, we have taken a decision with regard to the various stations at which these troops have been stationed for some time. That decision is to withdraw the Indian troops from Egypt and Palestine immediately. We have agreed to retain our troops in Iraq for the specified object of guarding the stores at Shaiba Base. I have mentioned several times to the House that during the process of war huge stocks of stores came to be accumulated in this theatre, and before they are disposed of in an orderly manner they have got to be guarded and looked after. This is the only object for which a small force of Indian troops will be retained in Iraq. We have decided to withdraw the whole Indian occupational force from Japan as I just now mentioned. We have also decided to withdraw our troops in Burma and Malaya after consultation with all parties concerned and at their convenience.

Reference was made to the bloated staff in General Headquarters. I have got with me here a graph.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): May I know one thing? What is the amount of expenditure in keeping the army overseas?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: It is not readily available but I will be prepared to give it to the Honourable Member later, if he requires. But the point is this that the expenditure on troops which are outside the borders of India is borne by His Majesty's Government except in Japan where the Government of India agreed to bear the expenditure because the force was stationed there as a mark of the growth of India to nationhood and as a mark of her prestige as being one of the major Allied Powers in the last war. Coming to General Headquarters, on the 1st of January 1946 the number of officers was somewhere about 2,300.

[Mr. G. S. Bhalja]

On the 1st of January 1947 it came down to less than 1,400. The target fixed for reduction by the 1st of October is less than 500. I would like to mention here the purpose for which the staff is yet of such large size. The reasons are that we are yet not on a peacetime basis. They have to perform various important duties among which I would mention planning for the size and composition of the post-war Armed Forces, planning for nationalisation, planning scales of accommodation, reorganisation of the Military Engineering Services, disposal of surplus stocks, maintenance or withdrawal of Indian troops overseas, etc., etc.

I shall next refer to the complaint made by my honourable friends Messrs. Jaffer and Anthony with regard to the Indian Medical Department. I would say straightaway that the decision of the Government is to have in the future one military medical service, namely the Indian Army Medical Corps. This service will consist exclusively of Indian officers, who are graduates. It is not proposed to grant one single commission to a non-Indian in the service. The position of the Indian Medical Department is however peculiar.

My friend there complained that we were going to throw out of employment a large number of men who had done splendid work during the war. It is not quite as he puts it. I acknowledge on behalf of the Defence Department the very excellent work which the members of the Indian Medical Department did during the war. But the process of demobilisation is painful as has been pointed out. It is not that we wish to throw people out of employment willingly. We have to resort to demobilisation because we cannot possibly maintain two million men in arms in peace time. This I.M.D. consisted of two cadres: the British cadre and the Indian cadre. The British cadre comprised mostly Anglo Indians and the Indian cadre comprised other Indians. They were not graduates. They were licentiates. They were educated at the expense of Government. They were taken in service when young and those who could qualify for the degree were given the opportunity to do so. During the war, owing to the vast increase in the personnel of the armed forces and the necessity of appointing medical officers to look after them, it was found necessary to give commissions to licentiates as well. It was made clear from the very beginning that these temporary commissions were only for the duration of the war and that the officers concerned would revert to their original status when their services as officers were no longer required. I do not propose to go into details but I should like to point out that there is really no cause for complaint on the part of this particular class of officers who were given temporary Commissions during the war. They will be given the option to revert to their old status. By old status I mean the status which they would have been able to reach had the war not come on at all. A shadow register was maintained and promotions will be granted to these officers as if there had been no war. A few of them have been given the opportunity to go outside India to qualify themselves for the graduates course and thus make themselves eligible for the grant of permanent commissions and actually 33 of them who are graduates have already been selected for the grant of permanent commissions and their names have been entered in the register which has been kept for that purpose. I submit that these officers have no genuine grievance. A few have had the advantage of getting regular commissions in the I.A.M.C. which they would never have got if it was not for the war. The remainder have enjoyed the fortunes of war for three or four years and they have now to revert to the status which they would have had there been no war. A somewhat beneficial revised pension and gratuity scale has been worked out and those reverting to their original status can make use of it if they found it more advantageous than to continue in service.

I shall now deal with the large expenditure which has been the subject of comment from all quarters of the House. Sir, Government are at one with the House in this matter. We wish to see the Defence Expenditure reduced to a figure which we can afford. It does not seem to be realised that this is the legacy of the war that we cannot suddenly disband the vast number of personnel who joined the armed forces and leave them in the streets.

The budget estimates are based on the average strength of the three services. The average strength of the army has been taken at 3,84,945, of the Royal Indian Navy at 12,791 and of the Air Forces at 26,320. It is expected that the army will have been demobilized to about 50,000 personnel by the 1st of April 1947. According to present calculations, and if unforeseen situations do not arise, it is anticipated that the strength will be of the order of 300,000 by the end of December 1947. It is not possible to indicate the exact strength because we have not yet been able to reach a decision as regards the size and composition of the future armed forces. One Honourable Member complained of the delay in coming to a decision on this important and vital issue. Sir, the previous Government rightly kept over this matter for decision by a popular Government inasmuch as the size of the Defence Budget was inevitably bound to take a lion's share in the budget of this country. After the new Government assumed office, they grappled with this problem. They have reached tentative conclusions. The questions now for consideration are what is the size of the Defence Budget which the country can afford? What is going to be the role of the future armed forces? I do not propose to go into the ethics of maintaining armed forces. I would only say that whatever our ideology may be—we would like the armed forces to be removed altogether if all the other countries of the world did the same—but as practical men, as wise men, as men on whom the responsibility for the defence of the country lies, it would be foolish, it would be imprudent on our part to wildly cut down the forces to a figure which would put us at the mercy of any invader.

Our demobilisation machinery is working at full speed. In order to appreciate the complicated machinery of demobilisation, I shall briefly indicate the process. In the main, only units are demobilised as a whole. When a unit becomes available disbandment orders are issued and a date is given by which disbandment has to be completed. The units available for disbandment depend on a number of factors, one of which is whether it is able to move from its location without relief and if relief is required the process of moving another unit to take over has to be considered. This necessitates a large scale shuffle of units and some times involves the movement of units back to India from overseas. If units have to be moved from overseas, the availability of shipping has to be considered, which is a very important factor at the present moment. When a unit receives its orders for disbandment, it arranges to dispose of its vehicles and stores. It despatches to the Regimental Centre men who have volunteered for pre-release training. It has then to move as a unit to its regimental centre. This involves the provision of special trains. I may mention for the information of Honourable Members that in the month of January some 500 special trains had been run to move troops in this country. Having arrived at the centre, the troops are called forward in batches for documentation and withdrawal of personal equipment, etc., and finally they are despatched to their places of residence.

While we shall do everything that is possible to speed up demobilisation, I should like to utter a word of warning. India is passing through a critical period at the present moment. The insensate and fratricidal communal outbreaks that are going on in some parts of the country will fill every Indian's

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heart with sadness. If these disturbances continue and the situation does not return to normal, the demobilisation programme will have to slow down.

Then, again, Sir, another important factor is the programme of disposals. This programme should proceed in accordance with plan. The House is aware that the Defence Department are responsible for the custody and guarding of huge quantities of surplus stores, which ties down a considerable number of armed forces personnel. The army is also responsible for the storage and guarding of American surpluses, which have been taken over by the Government of India.

I shall mention here that we shall have to retrench a large number of temporary personnel in the armed forces including temporary labour, which, for ordnance depots alone, accounts for a sum of Rs. 6 crores. The labour in depots, factories, arsenals, etc. will also have to be retrenched. Similarly, retrenchment has to be carried out in the Military Accounts Department, which costs, roughly, Rs. 5 crores. I am sure the House will support the Department in resisting all demands for slowing down retrenchment.

As against the possibility of speeding up demobilisation must be set the factors which I have just mentioned. I should also like to mention that provision has been made in the Budget for the cost of acquisition of land on the valuation of the requisitioned property on the date of the notice of requisition. The House is already seized by the report of the Select Committee on the Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Bill. It contains a recommendation that the market value to be assessed for payment of compensation should be as on the date of the notice of acquisition and not requisition. This will involve additional expenditure to the extent of several crores, for which no provision has been made in the Budget.

A reference has been made to the Post-war Pay Committee. The recommendations of this Committee will have to be correlated to those of the Civil Pay Commission and might involve some increase in expenditure, the extent of which it is not possible to foresee at the moment and for which consequently no provision has been made in the Budget. My Honourable friend mentioned that the Post-war Pay Committee should not have to re-do its work now. That is precisely the point. The Committee has got its tentative conclusions ready and its job now is to correlate those conclusions to the conclusions which have been reached by the Civil Pay Commission.

My Honourable friend Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia made a reference to a pleasure trip of a high officer. I have no knowledge of the facts, but I can assure him that we shall look into the matter and if the facts alleged are true, we will consider what action should be taken. I do not wish to take more time of the House.

My Honourable friend the mover of the cut motion, made a reference to the necessity of building up the national forces of India. The Defence Department is at one with him in this matter. The very object of appointing the Nationalisation Committee is to speed up nationalisation. In fact, Government are now considering what revision of the terms of this Committee is necessary as a result of the declaration made by His Majesty's Government recently. But, as I said the other day, the terms already lay down that they should make recommendations for the replacement of non-Indian personnel by Indian personnel in the shortest possible time. Soon after his assumption of office, the Honourable the Defence Member broadcasted a message to the armed forces in which he laid considerable emphasis on the necessity of these forces considering themselves as the national forces of India. Thereafter, the Honourable the Vice-President of the Interim Government and the Honourable the Defence Member made an appeal to the youth of India to

come forward in larger numbers to serve their country in the national forces. I shall only add that I hope the House will give every encouragement to the armed forces personnel. I particularly endorse the appeal which has been made by my Honourable friend Mr. Anthony to keep out political considerations from the armed forces and hope that it will find ready response from all quarters. The Army is the only neutral force in the country and it is the only force which has proved impartial in the terrible disturbances which we are witnessing. As I said the other day, we have received reports of nothing but praise and admiration for the manner in which these troops have behaved themselves and I am confident they will continue to maintain their fine traditions in the future.

Mr. Deputy President: Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Defence Member): Sir, I would like to speak for ten minutes only, if the Honourable Member agrees.

Mr. Deputy President: Will the Honourable Member (Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri) speak for ten minutes only as the Defence Member also wishes to speak?

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan): I will take only five minutes. I also wish to be included amongst those who have spoken on this momentous motion, which was moved by my gallant friend Mr. Sri Prakasa who claimed to belong to feudal class. May I remind the Honourable Member that feudal lords, whatever may be the pleasures in which they indulged themselves, were distinguished for their valour and skill in war? And may I also hope that, given the opportunity in independent India, my Honourable friend will be able to eclipse his predecessors?

Sir, in my speech I shall be merely echoing some of the questions which are uppermost in the minds of our people at the present moment. We are going to be independent very soon. At this juncture, may we know what is the arrangement between the British Government and the Indians who are now in Government? Are we going to be protected in our country by the British Navy for some time more or are we going to depend on the Royal Air Force for our protection? Are we going to be on our knees and ask the British army to remain here for a little while more so that we may gather the strength to defend ourselves in the meantime? These are the questions which are uppermost in the mind of every Indian today. Sir, the present Viceroy will soon go and the Viceroyalty will soon disappear. I should like to know whether the present Commander-in-Chief also will disappear at the same time. I should like to know if there is any Indian in the mind of our government who can occupy the position of the Commander-in-Chief. Sir, may I remind the House that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose came from a province which was supposed to be non-martial, they had no army worth the name, they had no arms, even lathis were banned in that province. Yet we saw that Netaji commanded a vast force of Azad Hind Fauj, which but for the unfortunate circumstances which had beset them, would have written the history of India in quite a different manner.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Assam would have been free long ago.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: My Honourable friend reminds me of Assam even if I want to forget it. The other provinces of India are almost indifferent to the fortune of Assam. I may remind my Honourable friend that there was an Assam regiment consisting of a thousand people which fought the enemy—unfortunately they were our own National Army men—on the Naga hills and 900 out of 1,000 were cut to pieces. That shows with what bravery they fought. They know how to fight, they did not know how to run away like some people. That is the difficulty. Jokes apart, I should

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like to make some suggestions to the Honourable the Defence Member for his considerations. The first thing that I would urge upon him is to employ as many men as possible of the Indian National Army. There should not be any ban against their appointment. There might have been some unfortunate epithets flung at them by the previous government, but no such feeling should be entertained by the present Government as it is the Government of the Indian people. I should also suggest that none of the emergency commissioned officers should be discharged. If anybody is not up to the mark, further training should be given to them. No attempt should be made to get the ex-servicemen back to their civilian vocations. They should all be absorbed in the army. We shall need the services of all these ex-service men if the British army withdraws. I would also suggest there should be some more training centres in different provinces for military training, because wherever military training centres exist, military spirit is infused into the mind of the youths of the place. I would point out, Sir, that in Assam, which is so much derided, there is excellent material for the army. If there are training centres, I am sure, Assam will provide an excellent field for recruitment of young men for the army and for training in guerilla warfare. They can be better used as units for guerilla warfare. After all in modern warfare, guerilla warfare is an excellent method of defending one's country.

Another point which I should like to bring to the notice of the Honourable Defence Member is this. When a unit is moved, the unit officers get only warrant, but when somebody in G.H.Q. moves, he gets three first class. I suggest there should be no distinction and no such extravagance in case of G.H.Q.

The last but not the least point that I wish to make is this. that the Honourable Defence Member and Honourable Home Member should consider the advisability of immediately repealing the Arms Act. In these days young men get startled even at the sound of a gun. In our boyhood days, young men were more accustomed to use of arms than now. Distrust has intervened between our generation and the present generation and the present day boys will not make good soldiers unless the Arms Act is repealed immediately and military training is given to the boys. Every man should be allowed to use arms as he likes. The fear that there will be civil war or there will be riots or there will be more suicides should not deter the Government from repealing the Arms Act.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, before you call upon the Defence Member to reply to the debate, I should like to tell him that we expect a reply to the question of the Ordnance Officers, Civilians which was raised by Mr. Jaffer. The Defence Secretary did not give any reply to the points raised by some Honourable Members. Notice have been served on some Ordnance officers. I would request the Honourable Defence Member to give a reply with regard to that point.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, before I reply to the points raised by the Honourable Members, I should like to say that I owe an apology to this House for my unavoidable absence. I may assure the House that it was not at all intentional. I had to go to the Punjab in order to see for myself whether the military force is enough to cope with the situation in the Punjab.

(At this stage, Mr. President resumed the Chair)

I returned this afternoon and as soon as I was told that the Cut Motion about the Budget has come up, I rushed to the House. I am sorry I was not in time to listen to the remarks which the Member had to make. Sir, most of the

points have been replied to by the Defence Secretary and I do not wish to repeat. I have got only one or two points to reply to. The first one is about the criticism that has been raised regarding the notice of discharge served on the Civilian Ordnance Officers. Criticism has also been made that the recommendations of the Nationalisation Committee have been turned down. I may assure the House that nothing of the sort has been done. The House will remember that I was responsible for the appointment of this Nationalisation Committee with the object of replacing the British officers that have been there in the armed forces for such a long time. The terms of reference of this Nationalisation Committee are very well known to all Honourable Members of the House. I stand here to give the assurance to the House and through this House to the country that it will be the earnest desire of the Government that the recommendations of the Nationalisation Committee should be given effect to. Now, Sir, regarding this particular matter, a satisfactory reply has been given by the Defence Secretary on the Adjournment Motion that was sought to be moved on the subject. The position is this. 135 officers have been served with notice. There are altogether 1,600 officers in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps. We require only 100 civilian officers and 600 military officers as the post-war strength of this cadre is not going to be more than 700 officers. For 600 military officers we have 706 Indian military officers and for 100 civilian officers we have got even after dispensing with the services of 135 officers, about 800 civilian officers. Now, Sir, regarding the Nationalisation Committee recommendations, it is true that they have recommended that the notices that have been served on these 135 officers should be withdrawn. We have really not turned down the recommendations of the Nationalisation committee. But what we have said is this. The recommendations of the Nationalisation committee were received about a fortnight ago. We had no time to examine them. It is the view of the Defence Department that these 135 officers who had joined only in 1945 have to go in any case. It does not mean that we wish to keep the British officers who are already there to the extent of six hundred, but what it means is that we have not been able to examine the recommendations of the Nationalisation Committee, and it will take us some time before we can select the Indian officers who will be qualified to take the place of the British officers that are serving in that cadre. Now, Sir, I hope the House will be satisfied that as far as the Defence Department is concerned we are perfectly prepared to give effect to the recommendations of the Nationalisation Committee, and it is not at all my desire nor the desire of the Interim Government to do anything to prolong the stay of British officers who are no longer necessary.

There is another point which was raised by my Honourable friend Sardar Surjit Singh about the dismissal of A.O.C.-in-C. Sir Roderick Carr. I do not want to go into this question. All that I would like to say is that he has not been dismissed at all but I am responsible for dispensing with his services in consultation with the Commander-in-Chief. Whether he had pro-Indian views or he was in favour of nationalisation is a different matter about which I do not know; but I may inform this House that to nationalise the forces is not the work of the A.O.C.-in-C. but it rests now with the Defence Member and, if I may say so, with the Interim Government. I will say in this connection that whether the A.O.C. is A, B or C, it does not matter. It is not the question of a particular officer; it is a question of the policy of the Government of India, and that policy is to nationalise all the armed forces. And in this connection I must say that I have been receiving the fullest possible cooperation from the Commander-in-Chief.

The next question that was raised was in connection with the pay of the armed forces personnel. I think this question was again raised by my Honourable friend Sardar Surjit Singh that the technical staff of the air forces

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should be paid an adequate salary. It is the desire of the Defence Department to pay as best salaries as possible; but the House will agree with me that it is not possible for Government to pay the high salaries that people are getting in industries. As you know, Sir, on account of the peculiar conditions that exist in the world today and in this country the industrialists are in a position to pay much higher salaries and no Government—if I may say so—can afford to pay their services as high salaries as the industrialists can. I may here again stress the point that it is the desire of the Government of India to pay the defence services as good salaries as is possible or as we can afford. In this connection, as has already been pointed out by the Defence Secretary, a Pay Committee has been appointed and they have thoroughly examined the matter and their recommendations will be considered along with the recommendations of the Pay Commission which will come up before Government shortly.

My Honourable friend Mr. Lawson stressed a very important point about the armed forces. He rightly said that the armed forces of India have made a name in the world. I am sure the House will agree that whatever may have been our political differences in the past there is no doubt that the armed forces of this country have made a name in the whole world. We are proud of our armed forces and I wish to assure the House that it is the desire of Government to maintain the forces at a high level of efficiency. It is our earnest desire that we want to reduce the expenditure to the minimum possible; but in reducing the expenditure, I can assure the House that the efficiency of the armed forces will not be ignored. In this connection I will again mention that although we want our armies to be very efficient, to be well equipped and to be of the same standard as the armies of other parts of the world, it

5 P. M. is not, as has been made clear, our intention to use them for aggressive purposes, but we want to use them to defend the honour and prestige of this country.

Mr. President: Honourable Members will remember that on the first day allotted for Demands for Grants I preferred to follow the Parliamentary practice and straightaway read out those demands, under which cut motions had been tabled, as all the Demands had already been recommended by the Governor General. Now, I propose to make a further change and instead of putting each demand before the House separately, I propose—as in the case of uncontested clauses of a Bill—to put all the demands collectively to the House. I may draw attention to the fact that this year in the Order Paper containing the list of demands the particular amount against each demand has been entered separately, which was not the practice during previous years. So Honourable Members have now got with them the serial number of the demand, the head of the demand and also the amount of the demand. So, I propose to put all these demands together and the formula will be slightly differently worded.

Shri Sri Prakasa: If we want to throw out a demand what should we do?

Mr. President: If any particular demand is objected to I will put it separately. May I know if any demand is going to be opposed?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Yes, Sir, demand no. 30.

Mr. President: I shall put that separately if the Honourable Member so desires.

The question is:

"That the separate sums not exceeding the sums shown in the third column of the Order Paper except the sum shown against Demand No. 30, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of corresponding demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 30—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I suggest, Sir, that in view of this procedure this list of Demands will form a part of the proceedings of this House.

Mr. President: So far as the proceedings go, each Demand will be printed separately.

[As directed by the Honourable the President the Motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Assembly are reproduced below.—*Ed. of Debates.*]

DEMAND No. 1—CUSTOMS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,81,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Customs'."

DEMAND No. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE AND SALT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,99,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Central Excise and Salt'."

DEMAND No. 3—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,72,07,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

DEMAND No. 4—OPIMUM

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 87,69,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Opium'."

DEMAND No. 5—PROVINCIAL EXCISE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,19,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Provincial Excise'."

DEMAND No. 6—STAMPS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,65,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Stamps'."

DEMAND No. 7—FOREST

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,11,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Forest'."

DEMAND No. 8—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS—MET FROM REVENUE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,43,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation (including working expenses), Embankment and Drainage works—met from Revenue'."

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DEMAND No. 9—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,81,25,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including working expenses)'."

DEMAND No. 10.—INTEREST ON DEBT AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,67,65,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and Other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

DEMAND No. 11—CABINET

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,60,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Cabinet'."

DEMAND No. 12—COUNCIL OF STATE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Council of State'."

DEMAND No. 13—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,46,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

DEMAND No. 14—CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,43,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Constituent Assembly'."

DEMAND No. 15—HOME DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,55,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Home Department'."

DEMAND No. 16—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,58,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 17—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,26,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Legislative Department'."

DEMAND No. 18—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,43,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Education'."

DEMAND No. 19—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,27,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 20—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,10,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Health'."

DEMAND No. 21—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,57,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Commonwealth Relations'."

DEMAND No. 22—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,96,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

DEMAND No. 23—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,89,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

DEMAND No. 24—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,06,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

DEMAND No. 25—DEPARTMENT OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,26,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Works, Mines and Power'."

DEMAND No. 26—DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,07,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Communications'."

DEMAND No. 27—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,53,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Transport'."

DEMAND No. 28—FOOD DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,92,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Food Department'."

DEMAND No. 29—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,13,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

DEMAND No. 30—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

DEMAND No. 31—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 99,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries'."

DEMAND No. 32—AUDIT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,88,72,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Audit'."

DEMAND No. 33—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

DEMAND No. 34—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,39,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

DEMAND No. 35—POLICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,37,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Police'."

DEMAND No. 36—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,68,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

DEMAND No. 37—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,53,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

DEMAND No. 38—SURVEY OF INDIA

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,07,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

DEMAND No. 39—BOTANICAL SURVEY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,54,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

DEMAND No. 40—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,40,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

DEMAND No. 41—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,57,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

DEMAND No. 42—MINES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,87,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Mines'."

DEMAND No. 43—ARCHAEOLOGY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,30,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Archaeology'."

DEMAND No. 44—METEOROLOGY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,31,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

DEMAND No. 45—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,95,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'."

DEMAND No. 46—EDUCATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 90,78,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Education'."

DEMAND No. 47—MEDICAL SERVICES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,35,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

DEMAND No. 48—PUBLIC HEALTH

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,90,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Public Health'."

DEMAND No. 49—AGRICULTURE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,43,52,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 50—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,95,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

DEMAND No. 51—INDUSTRIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 43,62,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Industries'."

DEMAND No. 52—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATION SERVICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,91,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Overseas Communication Service'."

DEMAND No. 53—AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,21,81,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Aviation'."

DEMAND No. 54—BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,68,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 55—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,34,51,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Industries and Supplies'."

DEMAND No. 56—EMIGRATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,33,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Emigration'."

DEMAND No. 57—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,68,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

DEMAND No. 58—CENSUS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,55,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Census'."

DEMAND No. 59—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,96,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

DEMAND No. 60—INDIAN DAIRY DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,37,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

DEMAND No. 61—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,73,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

DEMAND No. 62—CURRENCY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 71,27,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Currency'."

DEMAND No. 63—MINT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,05,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Mint'."

DEMAND No. 64—CIVIL WORKS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,59,81,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

DEMAND No. 65—CENTRAL ROAD FUND

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,12,00,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Central Road Fund'."

DEMAND No. 66—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,32,82,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

DEMAND No. 67—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 84,80,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

DEMAND No. 68—MISCELLANEOUS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,80,99,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

DEMAND No. 69—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 80,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

DEMAND No. 70—RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,95,30,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Resettlement and Development'."

DEMAND No. 71—CIVIL DEFENCE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,50,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

DEMAND No. 72—DELHI

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,33,79,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Delhi'."

DEMAND No. 73—AJMER-MERWARA

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 54,77,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

DEMAND No. 74—PANTH PIPLODA

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Panth Piproda'."

DEMAND No. 75—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 75,40,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Andaman and Nicobar Islands'."

DEMAND No. 76—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SALT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,60,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Salt'."

DEMAND No. 77—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,76,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests'."

DEMAND No. 78—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE SECURITY PRINTING PRESS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,11,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on the Security Printing Press'."

DEMAND No. 79—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE).

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,43,29,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND No. 80—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND No. 81—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,04,15,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Industrial Development'."

DEMAND No. 82—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,82,65,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

DEMAND No. 83—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,46,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 84—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MINTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,15,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Mints'."

DEMAND No. 85—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,61,80,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

DEMAND No. 86—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,87,85,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Works'."

DEMAND No. 87—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

DEMAND No. 88—PAYMENTS TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,88,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Payments to Retrenched Personnel'."

DEMAND No. 89—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF STATE TRADING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading'."

DEMAND No. 90—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 54,20,07,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Development'."

DEMAND No. 91—INTEREST-FREE AND INTEREST-BEARING ADVANCES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,37,28,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Interest-free and Interest-bearing Advances'."

The Assembly then adjourned Till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 17th March, 1947.