

16th March 1945

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume III, 1945

(14th March to 29th March, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

President :

The Honourable Sir ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I.

Deputy President :

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

Mr. ABDUL QAIYUM, M.L.A.

Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

Mr. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

Sir HENRY RICHARDSON, M.L.A.

Secretary :

Mian MUHAMMAD RAFI, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary :

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

Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

Marshal :

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

Committee on Petitions :

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A. (Chairman).

Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

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

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

CONTENTS

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

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

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 16th March, 1945

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

STEPS FOR EASING MILK SHORTAGE

1036. *Mr. Manu Suedar: (a) What steps has the Honourable the Food Member taken to ease the position with regard to the shortage of milk in India?

(b) What was the total import of (i) whole milk powder, and (ii) skimmed milk powder, into India in 1942/43, 1943/44 and 1944/45 (upto the 31st December 1944)?

(c) How is it that Government are encouraging the import of skimmed milk powder instead of whole milk powder, which would occupy the same shipping space, but which would have greater nutritive value?

(d) Have Government any information as to the source of supply of milk to (i) the Army, (ii) the American soldiers, and (iii) refugees, prisoners of war and other extraneous elements in the population?

(e) What steps have Government taken to represent to the American authorities to arrange for their own supply of milk, instead of falling on that which should go to the civil population of India?

(f) Have any milch cattle been imported into India for the Army by Government or by other parties?

(g) If so, what is the total number so imported since the beginning of the war?

(h) Have Government taken any steps for increasing the import of milch cattle and of whole milk powder?

(i) If so, what are these steps, from what sources, and when will these imports take place?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Attempts are being made by the Central and Provincial Governments to increase the production of milk in India. Imports of processed milk have also been arranged with H. M. G. as follows for the year 1945:

Full cream sweetened condensed milk, 2,000 tons.

Skim Milk powder, 2,000 tons.

Infants and Invalids milk foods, 1,631 tons.

We have represented to H. M. G. that we require additional quantities and negotiations are proceeding. We hope to be able to obtain additional quantities as follows:

Full Cream, 1,000 tons.

Spray skim, 3,750 tons.

(b) A statement is placed on the table.

(c) Government are not encouraging the import of skim milk powder, but the total available world supplies of processed milk are unequal to the demand and we have to secure what we can from supplies available. Skim milk powder is to be used in catering establishments in urban areas in order to set free supplies of fresh milk for distribution to the vulnerable sections of the community.

(d) 20 per cent. of the total demands of the Defence Forces and prisoners of War is met by local purchase; the remainder is supplied by the military dairy farms or by importation. There are no special arrangements for meeting the demand of refugees.

(e) Supplies to American troops are made up to a specified limit from the military dairy farms. The remainder of their requirements are met already by importation. I understand that in connection with our demand for imports for civil consumption H. M. G. are already endeavouring to obtain additional quantities from America.

(f) None by the Government and a few by the Army. The information whether other parties have imported any milch cattle is not readily available.

(g) 96 bulls and 175 heifers have been imported by the Army since the outbreak of the War.

(h) No steps have been taken to increase the import of milch cattle from abroad since such importation in existing circumstances is impracticable on any appreciable scale. As regards the import of whole milk powder, please see reply to (c) above.

(i) Does not arise.

Import of whole milk and skimmed milk powder into India

Item.	Unit	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45 Upto 31st Dec.
1. Whole Milk Powder	cwt.	7,777	4,440	8,921
2. Skimmed Milk Powder	cwt.	4,964	3,718	1,621

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that their prohibition of the slaughter of prime cows and buffaloes, which pleased this House, is not being properly carried out by the provinces and by the municipalities, and that the private interests of those who deal in cattle is destroying public interest in this direction?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of the fact, but if the Honourable Member will bring any cases to my notice I will draw the attention of the provincial Governments concerned.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member not aware that Bengal has not carried out this prohibition and the Government of India themselves had a complaint to make against them?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I cannot reply to that question off-hand; I am not aware of it.

Mr. Abdul Qayum: May I know why milch cattle are not imported into India in view of the acute shortage of milk in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already given the reasons in my answer.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have Government taken any steps to increase the number of dairy farms in this country for the purpose of producing more milk?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, Sir; I believe the provinces have started a number of dairy farms. I am told that financial assistance in the form of interest-free loans has been given in one or two provinces to co-operative milk societies, and they have generally assisted in the improvement of milk supplies.

STEPS FOR RE-FORESTATION

1037. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) In view of the intensive utilisation of forests and the cutting down of trees for urgent war needs, what steps has the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands taken, or recommended to Provincial Governments and Indian States, for restoring the balance by reforestation?

(b) What proposals have been made?

(c) What is the extent of re-planting, which will be involved?

(d) In how many years cycle is it expected to replace what has been cut down?

(e) Have Government prepared any plan or scheme for this purpose?

(f) If so, will they circulate a copy thereof to the Members of this House?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The matter, whether as regards Government reserved forests or privately-owned forests, is primarily one for Provincial and State Governments. The position as regards advance felling in Government forests was reviewed in paragraphs 32 to 41 of the Inspector General's note on 'Post-War Forest Policy for India' copies of which are in the Library of the House. The Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at its meeting in Simla last June adopted the following recommendation for the consideration of all the Governments concerned:

"The reserved forests be immediately examined and working plans revised or prepared to ensure the conservative management that will be necessary for a few years to repair the damage done by advance fellings during the war".

The Policy Committee also recommended to Provinces an extension of the area under forests, particularly minor forests intended to provide the villagers with agricultural timber and fuel, and the assumption by Provincial Governments of additional powers to control privately-owned forests upto the extent of assuming full management if necessary.

(c) and (d). In forests under Government management advance fellings are made good by natural or artificial regeneration according to the working plan, as fellings take place. No question of a cycle arises but to the extent that to meet war needs fellings have taken place earlier than provided in the working plans, there ought, as soon as circumstances permit and for a few years to come, to be a slowing down of fellings to below the level provided for in the pre-war working plans.

(e) and (f). The suggestions of the Inspector General of Forests as set out in his note, entitled "Post War Forest Policy for India" have been circulated to the Governments of Provinces and States with a general endorsement by the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. As already stated in reply to Part (b), Copies of the Inspector General's note will be found in the Library.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the responsibility of the Central Government with regard to food and the welfare of the community generally, will Government consider going beyond the stage of merely recommending to the Provincial Government? Will they take powers in regard to forests by declaring it a Central subject?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Government do not contemplate doing that at present.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know what has been the increase in the percentage of fellings during the war?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think that over India as a whole fellings have gone about three years in advance of working plans. In some provinces I know that it is more, but over India as a whole it is about three years in advance, and that is, of course, infinitesimal compared with a rotation of perhaps 100 years.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware whether the recommendations of the Policy Committee have been acted upon by the Provincial Governments?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We have had reports from some of the Provinces that they are revising their working plans.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Has any control been instituted over the private forests where the fellings are very much in advance of the plan?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Certain provinces have got legislation on the anvil. Bengal for one has got a Bill to control private forests actually before the Legislature.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the suggestions of the Policy Committee will be placed on the table of the House.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will examine that. I think it is already placed in the Library of the House.

MALARIA EPIDEMIC IN BANIYACHUNG

1038. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please refer to his reply to the supplementary questions

by Mr. K. C. Neogy on starred question No. 232 of the 25th February, 1944, and state what information he has received from the Government of Assam regarding the malaria epidemic in the village of Baniyachung in Sylhet?

(b) What is the decision of the Government regarding the suggestion of Mr. Neogy to depute the Public Health Commissioner to Baniyachung?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware—(i) that Baniyachung has lost over 14,000 people since the outbreak of the epidemic in March, 1943; (ii) that there is a difference of opinion between the Public Health Department of Assam and local doctors regarding the type of fever raging in Baniyachung; and (iii) that a large number of people in the village are still ailing?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please refer to his reply on the 25th February, 1944, to a supplementary question on starred question No. 232 when he said:—"We will certainly help the Government of Assam to the best of our ability" and does he propose to depute a committee of experts to Baniyachung to examine several cases locally and give their opinion regarding the nature of disease and recommend what effective method of treatment should be adopted?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement giving the figures of new cases of malaria treated in Baniyachung, which has been received from the Government of Assam, is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Government have decided that it is not necessary to depute the Public Health Commissioner to Baniyachung.

(c) (i) The total number of deaths from all causes in Baniyachung from March, 1943 to December, 1944 was 9,771 of which 5,891 were from Malaria.

(ii) Except for one junior Local Board Sub-Assistant Surgeon, whose diagnosis has been found to be erroneous, there is complete unanimity that the epidemic in Baniyachung was one of malaria—many of the cases being of the malignant cerebral type.

(iii) The epidemic in the village is well under control and only 54 new cases were treated in January, 1945.

(d) No. The Inspector General, Civil Hospitals, the Director of Public Health and the Director of the Pasteur and Medical Research Institute at Shillong have visited the village for investigation and have come to the conclusion that it was an epidemic of malaria.

Statement showing the numbers, of new cases of malaria treated in Baniyachung.

January, 1944	3,071	August, 1944	311
February, 1944	589	September, 1944	170
March, 1944	802	October, 1944	207
April, 1944	1,071	November, 1944	381
May, 1944	871	December, 1944	294
June, 1944	1,111	January, 1945	54
July, 1944	584	February, (upto the 17 th), 1945	43

Mr. M. Ananthassyanam Ayyangar: May I know if sufficient quantity of quinine was made available to that area?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We supplied quinine only to the Government of Assam but from the press note which the Government of Assam has issued I think it is made clear that they made very liberal distributions of quinine to the Hahigunj Sub-Division where Baniyachung is.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Is the Government aware that in view of the acuteness of the situation, His Excellency the Governor of Assam visited that place in the last week of February? Is the Government aware of the steps which the Assam Government are going to take for the removal of this epidemic? Conditions there are not so easy as has been depicted by my Honourable friend.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware that His Excellency the Governor has paid a visit to the village. I am glad to hear that he has. I have not also received any later information about the future intentions of the Government of Assam.

I know they established a special 50-bed hospital for a period, but I do not know how long they propose to keep it on.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Do Government think that one 50 bed hospital is quite sufficient for a village which is the biggest in the world?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: This is a special malaria hospital to treat specially complicated cases. The number of new cases, of malaria, treated in January, as I have said, was 54, and in February up to the 17th, 49.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Did the Honourable Member make enquiries from the Provincial Government after receiving this question?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, we did.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: The fact that the Governor visited the place even in February does not fit in with the rosy picture which the Honourable Member has drawn.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Government of Assam did not inform us about His Excellency's visit.

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

TRAINING OF STUDENTS ABROAD

1039. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum** (on behalf of **Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar**): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) with reference to the *Press Communiqué* of his Department, dated the 27th January, 1945, regarding training of students abroad, what the other studies envisaged in items 14 and 15, namely, other forms of applied science and technical subjects not covered above, are;

(b) whether the Selection Committees mentioned in paragraph 2 have been established; and

(c) when they expect to issue the advertisements and select the students?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The entries were purposely vague. They were intended to cover any additional subject, over and above those specified in the *Press Communiqué*, in which a Provincial Government or a Department of the Central Government might suggest sending a student. They will be omitted when the list of subjects is finally complete.

(b) The Central Selection Board has not yet been established. Certain Provincial Governments have reported that they have set up their Selection Committees.

(c) An advertisement inviting applications to be submitted by the 15th April, 1945, has already appeared in the press.

I may add that it appeared yesterday.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Central Selection Board will confine its selection to the students from the centrally administered areas or will draw upon other parts as well?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The division will not be quite on those lines because it is conceivable that students from Centrally administered areas might apply through provinces and also that persons from the provinces might apply for studentships sponsored by the Government of India. The Central Selection Board will deal primarily with all those who apply from whatever source they apply, for studentships sponsored by the Government of India. If we get too many applications from the Provinces, the Central Selection Board will probably be asked to advise with a view to thinning them down a bit.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know when the Central Selection Board will be formed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Very soon, I hope.

RESTRICTION OF SUGAR PRODUCTION IN BIHAR

1040. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been drawn to the following remark by Rai Bahadur Syammandan Sahaya, C.I.E., President of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce, in his address on the 25th January 1945:

"The fixation of price of sugar and sugarcane has been the cause of bitter comments in the press and on the platform and I would not tax your patience by enumerating them here.

but there is one thing which I might usefully point out, that it was not long hence that, in spite of the best efforts on the part of the mill-owners, they were not allowed to crush all the cane that was available and some cane had actually to be burnt or used as fodder in this Province. An apprehension of over production of sugar was given as the cause for this decision. Later on it was found that the apprehension was not justified and that we had to export so much sugar that there was actually dearth of sugar in the following years and in some parts of the country sugar was sold even at the rate of Rs. 40 per maund?"

(b) Under what circumstances are the facts stated here correct?

(c) Under what circumstances was the production of sugar artificially restricted and how much production was lost?

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

(b) The speaker was referring to the year 1940-41 when the sugarcane industry was a provincial responsibility and there was no central control over sugar.

(c) In the year 1939-40 there was over-production of sugar leading to a ruinous fall in prices. The provincial Governments of U. P. and Bihar, therefore, found it necessary in the interest of the sugar industry and of cane growers, in the following year to restrict production with a view to stabilise the market and enable the financing of production by Banks to be effected. Though no statistics are readily available this policy resulted in some of the available cane crop being destroyed on the ground.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the policy of the Government when such surplus cane is either destroyed or is supposed to be used as fodder? Do Government give any sort of compensation to the peasants affected?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am afraid I am not concerned with that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is concerned?

Mr. Hoosinbhoj A. Lalljee: How did the Government come to the conclusion that there was surplus sugarcane and it should be destroyed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As I have already stated, at that time sugar was not Central responsibility. This was done by the Provincial Governments of United Provinces and Bihar.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the very serious state of affairs disclosed in this matter, may I know what steps Government are taking to ensure that such affairs do not arise once again even when the control is with the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As the Honourable Member knows the Central control is only a war-time control, and I do not think there is any chance of this sort of thing arising during the war.

EXPORT AND PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

1041. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state how much sugar has been permitted to be exported from India and by whom?

(b) What was the total amount of sugar produced in India before the war in the year 1938-39?

(c) What was the total consumption in India before the war, what is the total amount produced now, and what is the total consumption now?

(d) What are the factors leading to the increased consumption of sugar in India?

(e) Are they due to the increased British army, the Americans, the refugees from Poland to Hongkong, the Italian and other prisoners of war?

(f) Are Government aware that sugar ration is extremely low in many parts of the country and there are complaints that the poor people never see any sugar?

(g) What is the price of sugar per maund compared with the price of sugar before the war?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) In the year 1943-44 a quota of about 17,000 tons of sugar for export to neighbouring countries was permitted by the Government of India. The figures of export for the years previous to 1943-44 are not readily available, but as far as I am aware the exports were less than 25,000 tons a year.

(b) 7,67,000 tons of sugar were produced in 1938-39.

(c) The civilian consumption of sugar before the war was approximately 11 lakhs tons a year. 12.2 lakhs tons of sugar was produced in 1943-44 and 10.5 lakhs tons made available for civilian consumption in that year. The civilian quota for consumption this year has not yet been finalised as the exact production is not known.

(d) and (e). The factors leading to increased consumption are increased population, increased requirements of the Defence Services, higher purchasing capacity of the public and the large increase in urban population, particularly industrial, leading to diversion of the demand from *gur* to sugar. The requirements of refugees and prisoners of war are relatively very small.

(f) Government are aware that the sugar ration is low in many parts of the country. But it must be remembered that poorer people still generally consume *gur* which is unrationed.

(g) The present price of sugar is about Rs. 16/4/- per maund as compared to Rs. 11 per maund in the immediate pre-war period.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the answer of the Honourable Member, may I know whether Government will take steps to prevent the export of sugar from this country as there is a very serious outcry from many parts of the country that the sugar ration given is ridiculously small?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, Sir, I am myself most anxious. But some of the countries which receive sugar from us are Afghanistan, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, and Tibet. They have always depended on India for sugar supplies and I think the House would agree that it would go very hard on them if we refused them the small supplies which we give them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Which are the other countries? These countries having been dependent on India for sugar, I agree you should not cut them out. I refer to the export of sugar by sea. Will Government stop all such exports?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The other countries are the Near East, Saudi Arabia, South-East Persia: those are the major recipients.

Mr. Hoossinbhoy A. Laljee: Where these countries dependent on India before the War?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to answer that question.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Do the figures that are given refer to refined sugar or to any other sugar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: What other sugar?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is it refined sugar or the *khansari* sugar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Not as far as I know.

SCARCITY OF SALT IN BENGAL AND OTHER PLACES

1042. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the amount of salt imported into India in the year 1938-39?

(b) When did salt imports into India from abroad cease?

(c) Have Government noticed the public outcry with regard to the scarcity and high prices of salt in Bengal and other places?

(d) What steps have Government taken to ease the salt situation?

(e) Have they provided special facilities to salt producers in Western India? If so, what are they?

(f) Have they fixed rates for salt as supplied to Bengal? If so, what are they?

(g) Did Government make any attempt to supply salt from Sambhar, Khewra or Pachhhhadra by rail in increased quantities?

(h) If so, what were those quantities and for which districts were these taken?

(i) What is the price of salt in Calcutta today as compared with the price before the war?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) 312,232 tons.

(b) Salt is still being imported from abroad.

(c) Yes. There was temporary scarcity leading to high prices in Bengal and Assam.

(d) The Government of India have arranged for adequate and regular imports of salt into Calcutta from the Middle East and the West Coast ports. Steps have also been taken to improve despatches of salt to the districts from Calcutta. The Bengal Government are now exercising full control over all arrival of salt, their prices and distribution. Provincial Governments are also building up reserve stocks of three months.

(e) Yes. The Government of India have allowed the salt producers in Western India a quota for export to the Eastern provinces and have arranged necessary shipping.

(f) The Bengal Government have fixed the ex-ship price at Rs. 800 per 100 maunds of all imported salt.

(g) No, firstly because the rail haul to Bengal and Assam would be too long for present transport conditions, and secondly, because the finer salt imported from West Coast ports and Middle East countries is preferred in Bengal.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) The present retail price of salt in Calcutta is three annas per seer as against pre-war price of one anna per seer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if shipping is available for imports into India from the Middle East and why are the Western India producers starved for shipping space?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is putting more than one question in the supplementary.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I want to know why preference is given to Middle Eastern Countries in shipping as against the West Coast of India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Bengal has been used to the Middle East salt.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: May I take it that the Middle East includes Aden because out of the 5½ lakhs, Aden is importing 2½ lakhs.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: May be. I am unable to answer that off-hand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member consider beginning charity at home by favouring salt in the West Coast of India and giving it shipping?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: My charity always begins at home.

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

(At this stage Mr. K. C. Neogy rose in his seat.)

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

POST-WAR PLANS FOR IMPROVING LABOUR

1043. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether Government have any post-war plans for improving labour in this country; and

(b) whether they will consider the advisability of setting apart a portion of the profits of all organised industries for improving the standard of life and giving education to the labourers employed in the respective industries?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: (a) Government's final plans in this respect have not been formulated.

(b) The suggestion will be considered along with others in implementing Government's plans.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: When are these plans likely to be formulated?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: As soon as the investigating committee has reported.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if there is a time limit for this committee to report?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: Yes, they have promised to give us their report sometime in August next.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of expediting their plans so that before the profits earned for this year are dissipated by the industries, they may be able to set apart a portion of the profits for improving labour conditions?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: I shall bear the suggestion in mind.

WASTE OF FOODGRAINS IN GOVERNMENT STORAGES

1044. *Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) what has been the estimated waste of foodgrains in Government Storages in the years 1943-44 and 1944-45;

(b) in what Provinces this waste has been most marked and for what reasons; and

(c) what steps have been taken to prevent these wastes in future?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). An accurate estimate of the loss of foodgrains in storage is not possible. Deterioration or destruction is caused by insects, rodents, and moisture, most of which can be traced to defective storage or to exposure to weather before storage. Total loss is comparatively rare, since deteriorated foodgrains can be reconditioned, and if unfit for human consumption can still be used for fodder or starch. Serious losses were suffered during 1944 in Bombay, amounting to about 22,000 tons owing to the explosion in the Bombay docks; in Karachi, amounting to about 3,075 tons owing to exposure to unprecedented rainfall, and in Bengal, amounting to about 3,664 tons owing to unfavourable climatic conditions, and the lack of storage and transport sufficient to cope with the large quantities of grain despatched during and after the Bengal famine.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (d) of his question No. 152 on the 13th February 1945.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if one of the main reasons for this loss was the absence of proper receptacles for storing grains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know what the Honourable Member means by 'receptacles'.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I mean godowns or warehouses for storing foodgrains.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already stated.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What steps have been taken by the Government of India since then to set up proper and adequate warehouses to avoid this wastage in future?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already answered a question on this subject.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

1045. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, the High Commissioner for South Africa, has made any contacts with the Union Government of South Africa? What is the present position of Indians there? What is the attitude of the Union Government towards Indians in South Africa?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Mr. Deshmukh has had introductory interviews with Field Marshal Smuts and Mr. Hofmeyr, the Deputy Prime Minister. Since the last debate in the House on the 9th February there has been no fresh development regarding the position of Indians. The Indian question is still under the consideration of the Union Government.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if the Government is in a position to say what the result of those interviews was?

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

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Honourable Member can tell us the present whereabouts of Mr. Deshmukh?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Certainly he is in South Africa.

Mr. Abdul Qayum: What part of South Africa?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That I do not know.

GHEE PURCHASING AGENCY OF MESSRS. ALOPIPRASAD AND SONS

1046. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) what area including Indian States besides the whole of the Punjab, Gwalior and U. P. has been allotted to Messrs. Alopiprasad and Sons for the purchase of ghee as Government Agents; since what period they have been working as such in those areas;

(b) whether any advances were made to them for the purchase of ghee during the period they had been acting as Government Agents; if so, what amounts and for what period;

(c) whether empty tins are being supplied by Government to them; if so, what has been the largest number supplied, what the number of empty tins at present lying with them is and in what districts;

(d) whether any scrutiny of the stock of empty tins is made by any responsible officer; if so, how many times during the year this scrutiny of Government empty tins is made; and

(e) whether any auditing of this firm's accounts is made; if so, how many times during the year, and whether a statement of this auditing will be placed on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) In addition to the areas mentioned in the question, Rajputana (excluding Jaisalmer and Jodhpur States) and Central India Agency (excluding Bhopal and Rewa States) have since 1942 been allotted to Messrs. Alopiprasad as our Agents for the purchase of ghee.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) Empty tins sufficient to cover a month's requirements at each market are supplied by Government to the Agents. Due to scarcity of tins and transport difficulties, the number of tins allotted to each market may be more or less than the requirements of one month. I cannot undertake to collect information of the number of tins held by the Agents at each of the 77 markets involved.

(d) An account of the stock of empty tins issued and filled tins returned is kept by the Officer-in-Charge.

(e) The Firm's accounts are audited twice a year. The answer to the latter part of the question is in the negative.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know whether, since the contract was given to Messrs. Alopiprasad for the period mentioned, any tenders were called for from other merchants or contractors? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to answer the question without notice.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The notice is there.

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

ADMISSIONS TO DHANBAD SCHOOL OF MINES

1047. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the number of last admissions in the Dhanbad School of Mines and the number of Muslims therein?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: 24, out of which one was a Muslim but he did not join.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know from the Honourable Member what are the rules for admission in the Dhanbad School of Mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is hardly a question that I can answer in reply to a supplementary question; but if my Honourable friend will lay down a question, I will give the information.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: May I know if the Honourable Member can explain the reason why this has been all along like this, why Muslims have not joined the Dhanbad School of Mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is really a matter which surprises me. I have looked into the matter and I do not see any reason why that should be so. I have to inform the Honourable Member that Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad is a member of the Governing Body. He ought to be able to know why exactly this is happening?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: The Governing Body has nothing to do.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Oh, yes, it has every thing to do. The whole management is vested in the Governing Body.

HYDARI MISSION

1048. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state what instructions were given by the Central Government to Sir Akbar Hydari in connection with what is called "Hydari Mission" in relation to future commercial undertaking between India and the United Kingdom?

(b) Is it a fact that the Hydari Mission has been sent to arrange economic and industrial settlement after the war between the United Kingdom and India? If so, what are the basic principles of such settlements arrived at by the Central Government?

(c) Will this settlement between U. K. and India be given effect to during the war?

(d) What consumers' goods are being imported from U. K. and U. S. A. at present, and how will they affect the manufacturers of these goods in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) None. As regards the objects of the Mission, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (a) of Mr. Neogy's starred question No. 303 on the 16th February 1945.

(b) *First Part.*—No.

(b) *Second Part* and (c). Do not arise.

(d) *First Part.* A list of important items of consumer goods is placed on the table of the House.

Second Part.—Indian manufacturers are not likely to be affected adversely in view of Government's policy to import only such goods as are available and necessary to meet the requirements of the country with due regard to the position of indigenous industries and to their ability to meet that demand.

List of important items of consumers goods imports of which are being encouraged

Alarm Clocks.	Kerosine oil.
Artificial Silk fabrics.	Liquors.
Artificial silk yarn thread.	Newsprint.
Books.	Non-ferrous metals such as aluminium, brass sheets, zinc, etc.
Chemicals household.	Oil cloth & Floor cloth.
Cotton piecegoods others.	Optical instruments, apparatus & equipment.
Cotton sewing thread.	Paints.
Crockery.	Paper of all kinds.
Outlery including razor blades.	Pipe tobacco.
Cycle and parts.	Photographic negative & Printing paper.
Domestic sewing machines and parts.	Polish and compositions.
Drugs, Medicines & Baby foods.	Professional and scientific instruments.
Electric Lamps, table fans and household appliances of all kinds.	Radios & Radio parts.
Essential oils.	Second hand clothing.
Glassware.	Stationery.
Handknitting wool	Toilet requisites.
Hardware.	Torches and components.
Hosiery.	Typewriters and parts.
Hurricane lamps.	Woollen yarn and Fabrics.

SCARCITY OF DHOTIS IN DELHI CLOTH MARKET.

1049. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware of the fact that not even a single pair of dhoti of 5 yds. x 48" was available in the Delhi cloth market on the 26th of February just on the eve of the Holi festival? How did such scarcity of cloth happen in spite of all sorts of textile control ordinances?

(b) Has the Honourable Member in contemplation any step to see that all cloth is standardised and sold as standard cloth through all normal trade channels?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make co-operative consumers stores all over India as licensed stores for supply of textiles under Government control?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No. Our information is that this is not correct.

(b) No.

(c) Internal distribution within a Province or State is the responsibility of that Province or State and the question of licensing Co-operative Societies will doubtless be considered by them on all relevant occasions.

UNSATISFACTORY SANITARY SITUATION IN INDIA

1050. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands been drawn to the paragraph at page 3 of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 28th January, under the caption "Nearly three lakhs die of Malaria in Bengal" and to another paragraph at page 4 of the same paper of the same date under the caption "Bombay Doctors congratulate the Red Army Military Corps"? If so, will he please state what steps Government propose to take to trace the causes of such contrasts between India and Soviet Government in respect of sanitary situation and to make a statement on the matter on the floor of the House?

(b) Apart from the steps taken by the Central Government through the Survey of Health Department for postwar reconstruction, does he propose to requisition the Ayurvedic, Yunani and Homeopathic systems of treatment to help the allopathic system in coping with the situation?

(c) Has the Honourable Member taken any step to organise any medical service at the centre for helping the Provincial Governments for coping with the situation?

(d) Does he propose to set up a Health Committee to enquire into the causes of such mortality in Bengal?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) I have seen the articles referred to. Government have set up the Health Survey and Development Committee to make a comprehensive survey of health organisation in India and to make recommendations regarding the measures to be taken to raise the health standards of the country.

(b) The question of the employment of practitioners of the systems of medicine mentioned is a matter for Provincial Governments.

(c) No central medical service has been organised but the Government of India have arranged with the military authorities for the loan of military medical personnel to Provincial Governments in recent severe epidemics.

(d) No. The causes of unusual mortality in Bengal in 1943-44 are being investigated by the Famine Inquiry Commission.

MADRAS PROVINCE APPEALS TO INCOME-TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

1051. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state:

(a) the number of appeals from Madras Province in January, 1944 and 1945 before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal;

(b) whether the large number of cases pending in Madras necessitates the two Benches in Bombay and Patna to move down to Madras and help the Madras Bench to clear the arrears;

(c) whether the number of cases pending are still many in spite of this; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to make the Madras Bench permanent and strengthen it?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) The number of pending appeals from Madras was 377 at the end of January, 1944, and 282 at the end of January, 1945.

(b) The Bombay and Patna Benches visited Madras to assist in the disposal of Madras arrears during the earlier months only of the period for which the Madras Bench was in existence.

(c) I have given the latest available figure in my reply to part (a).

(d) The Madras Bench ceased to exist at the end of February. Government will watch developments and will be prepared to consider the re-establishment of a Madras Bench should occasion arise.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what the duration of the delays on an average has been this year?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: That supplementary question does not arise on this question. I am not in a position to answer it.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there any need for these two Benches to go to Madras again for the disposal of pending appeals?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: There was need when the Benches went to Madras.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On what basis was the period extended by one month, till March?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: The life of the Bench has not been extended to March. It ceased to exist at the end of February.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO LEAGUE OF NATIONS

1052. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state what has been the contribution of India towards the League of Nations since the war?

(b) What is the work which the League of Nations is now doing to justify this contribution?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) I lay on the table a Statement containing the information required.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the latest available Report on the work of the League (for 1942-48) a copy of which is in the Library.

Statement

Contributions to League of Nations since the outbreak of war			
1940	9,41,000	1942	7,54,649
1941	7,54,649	1943	9,73,101
		1944	8,88,000
TOTAL			43,11,399

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member give us the total expenditure incurred—just one figure?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: The total expenditure from 1940—44 is Rs. 43,11,399.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will Government tell us what work is being done when the League of Nations does not even exist? Do Government think it desirable to go on incurring this expenditure?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Yes, a lot of work is being done.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What kind of work?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I have referred you to a book. If you will look at pages 27—48 you will find the work which is being done by the Economic, Financial and Transit Sections. On pages 49—58 you will find the work which is being done by the Health Section of the League. You will find that the Health Section of the League has been actively engaged on problems facing health administration and has concentrated its activities particularly on the present food scarcity, danger of epidemic outbreaks, etc. It has also been assisting the International Red Cross with information which is based on its experience, in order to determine what drugs are needed for epidemic relief. I may say in a word it has been carrying on health research generally. Then it is giving international assistance to refugees. Honourable Members know that the International Labour Office is pursuing its work actively. Only the other day there was a session of the International Labour Conference which was held

in Philadelphia, and which was attended by delegates from member countries. Further, you will see from pages 58—68 the work which is being done by the Supervisory Board of the Central Organisation. The Honourable Member will be satisfied if he reads or even glances through the book that the League is doing good work still.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know where this beautiful work is being done?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I can tell you that good work is being done in various places, for instance, Washington, Princeton, London, and other places.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if the San Francisco Conference is not expected to put an end to this white elephant?

(No answer.)

MANUFACTURE OF D. D. T.

1053. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether the Government of India are going to import D. D. T. which is an antidote to mosquitoes and pests?

(b) Is he aware that several laboratories in this country have successfully manufactured the said drug?

(c) If the answer be in the affirmative, why should not Government encourage the manufacture of the drug in the country by releasing the raw materials for the purpose namely, Chlorine and Benzene which are available here in sufficient quantity?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A small quantity is being imported in 1945 for experimental use.

(b) So far as Government are aware three or four firms in India have prepared D. D. T. but only on a laboratory scale.

(c) Benzene is not a controlled article and it can be obtained through normal trade channels. As regards chlorine, with the exception of one firm which applied for its release and got it, no other firm has applied for any assistance in procuring it.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: May I know what this D. D. T. means?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I understand its full name is 'Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloro-Ethane'.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR MINERS

1054. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if residential quarters are provided for miners in all mining areas; and if not, why not;

(b) if no quarters are provided, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that miners have proper housing accommodation;

(c) if Government are aware that the sanitary conditions in mining areas are very unsatisfactory and that lack of good housing accommodation and proper sanitation is seriously affecting the health of the miners and their families and thereby production; and

(d) if Government propose to consult the Tripartite Conference about the matter referred to in (c); and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Residential quarters are provided for miners in the important mining areas.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Indian Mines Act lays down the primary requirements regarding sanitary and health provisions, and the Mines Inspectorate see that they are properly observed.

(d) I shall consider the suggestion.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Since the coal situation is very grave may I ask Government if they will appoint a Committee of Experts, Medical, Health and Engineering, to go into the questions mentioned in (c)?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: We have already appointed a Coal-Mines Welfare Committee by whom all these questions are considered.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask what proportion of miners are housed in the houses provided in the mining areas?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am afraid I must have notice of that question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member has made a wrong statement.

RESTORATION OF BAN ON WOMEN WORKING UNDERGROUND IN MINES

1055. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if Government have seen the recent report of questions and answers in the House of Commons regarding women working underground in mines; and, if so, whether and when Government supplied Mr. Amery with the information that he stated he had called for, and what that information is;

(b) when Government will conclude the consideration of the question of restoring the ban on employment of women underground in mines;

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent such hardships to women; "are low but compare favourably with the pay in other industries in India" is based on facts; and

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, the rates of pay for women workers in other industries in India?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government have seen the reports in question. They do not consider it in the public interest to disclose the nature and contents of their report to the India Office.

(b) The question of the restoration of the ban on the employment of women underground in mines is constantly under review.

(c) and (d). What the Secretary of State said was that the rates of pay "compare favourably with those of other industries in that part of India". The only comparable labour is that employed on the neighbouring construction works, and Government believe that the statement is not far from truth.

MATERNITY BENEFITS AND FACILITIES FOR WOMEN MINERS

1056. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the information received by Government regarding matters referred to in question No. 437 on the 21st February, 1945, and its supplementaries;

(b) whether and, if so, how many women miners were delivered of babies inside the mines, and if there were any casualties among women and their infants;

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent such hardships to women;

(d) whether Government have called for a medical report on the consequences to the health of expectant mothers by underground work and the action taken by Government on it;

(e) what arrangements have been made in all mining areas for ante-natal and post-natal care; and

(f) whether women doctors with adequate staff are stationed in all mining areas; and, if not, whether Government propose to take immediate steps to do so and instruct the women doctors to maintain a separate health record of every one of the women working underground and their children?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). No report has been received of any child having been born underground. The second part of (b) does not arise.

(c) Under the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, women workers in mines may obtain leave for a month before the expected date of delivery, and they are prohibited from being employed during the four weeks following delivery. A bill to prohibit the employment of women underground during the ten weeks prior to the expected date of delivery is now before the House.

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

(e) Arrangements have been made for ante-natal and post-natal care by the Mines Board of Health in the Jharia and Raniganj coalfields. Some of the larger mines provide independent arrangements.

(f) Women doctors and adequate staff are employed at some of the large mines. Many mines provide midwives and nurses at hospitals. The second part of the question does not arise.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask if Government will make uniform arrangements in all mines for the welfare of women?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: We have that matter under consideration.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the House has declared itself against the employment of women below ground, will the Government of India now impose the ban in accordance with the wishes of this Legislature?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I thought that the decision of the House was more of a political *démarche* than a decision on merits.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He has wilfully misunderstood the intention of the House.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: On a point of order, is the Honourable Member free to put such an interpretation as to impute motives in regard to a well-considered decision of the House? If so, it will be very difficult to carry on. We have an irresponsible Government, and if they are going to talk like this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a speech you are making. On a point of order you cannot make a speech.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Can he impute motives?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As I followed the Honourable Labour Member, I believe he wanted to convey to the House that the question was considered from more than one point of view including political. At any rate, I do not think he was imputing any wrong motive to the House by saying that the question has been dealt with on political grounds.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: On a point of explanation, the official report of what the Honourable Member said may be referred to. He said it was a political *démarche*.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know if the Government of India reconsidered the question after the vote given by this Legislature?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have nothing to add to what I said.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARE OF MINERS' CHILDREN

1057. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the information received by Government about arrangements for the care of children and infants of miners since the reply given to starred question No. 436 on the 21st February 1945;

(b) the information received by Government on the points raised in supplementaries to that question; and

(c) whether milk is supplied free to infants and children of the miners; and, if so, the quantity of milk given to each child according to age, and if no milk is given, the reason for not giving it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). I have not yet received a report on all matters, but would first make clear that there is an absolute prohibition on women at any time taking babies underground, and themselves going underground for a period of 4 weeks after childbirth.

An enquiry made by the Lady Labour Welfare Officer a few months ago disclosed that women in an advanced state of pregnancy generally did not go underground and I have introduced a Bill which while giving longer benefit will prohibit them from going underground for 10 weeks before expected date of childbirth.

So far as I have ascertained no organised facilities exist for mothers to come to the surface to feed their babies at regular intervals, but the Lady Welfare Officers states that there is a tendency for women with children at home to leave the mines early to return to their homes.

(c) In a few mines only Government are examining further possibilities in regard to improvement of health of women and children in mining areas.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to that tendency for mothers who have left their children at home to leave the mines a little early, are they made to suffer any loss of wages because they leave a little early, or are they encouraged to leave the mines early without loss of pay?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They are paid by tubs: it is piece work.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: How many hours at a stretch do they work?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is piece work: they can go any time and come at any time.

PROPOSED VISIT OF INDIAN INDUSTRIALISTS TO BRITAIN

1058. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if Government have seen the report of recent questions and answers in the House of Commons regarding the group of Indian industrialists who will visit Britain early in April; and, if so, what is meant by Mr. Amery's statement that this group "had arranged their own composition";

(b) whether this group is going at the invitation and expense of the British Government or the Government of India;

(c) the object of their visit; and

(d) whether Government propose to ask a Labour Delegation including representatives of women workers to visit Great Britain and other foreign countries; and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes, but I have not seen the full statement and in the absence of the copy of the full statement it is not possible for me to say as to what was actually intended by the Secretary of State. The industrialists have been invited by the Government of India to visit U. K., the visit is unofficial in character and the members are free to arrange their programme and discuss matters unfettered by any terms of reference or any form of special guidance. This was what was probably meant by the Secretary of State.

(b) On the invitation of the Government of India who are only providing the necessary facilities for the proposed visit. The industrialists will bear their own expenses.

(c) The object is to enable the industrialists of this country to study the developments and technical advances made by the industries in that country during the past few years in furtherance of their own post-war industrial plans and to have contacts with the industrialists of U. K. for this purpose.

(d) Government are not sure that a visit by a Labour Delegation would achieve the specific objects in view. But Government have already granted facilities to Labour Delegations to attend the World Trade Union Congress and have agreed to bear the journey expenses of two of the Delegates.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell us what are the decisions reached by the Hydari Mission as reported in the papers today?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I never understood the Hydari Mission had anything to do with this delegation and I am quite prepared to answer a question if it is put.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the Government propose to provide this delegation with a secretariat?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That depends entirely on the wishes and intentions of the delegates themselves.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Das: Will the Honourable Member give us the composition of the delegation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite prepared to give it; it consists of nine or ten persons.

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

INDIAN REPRESENTATION AT SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

1059. *Sarūar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether India will be represented at the next peace conference to be held at San Francisco, U. S. A., on the 25th April, 1945; and

(b) who will nominate India's representatives, and who will prepare their brief for the conference?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question will be answered by Foreign Secretary on the appropriate day.

MICA ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

1060. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the stage the Mica Enquiry Committee has reached;

(b) the probable date by which the Committee is expected or has been asked to finish the enquiry;

(c) the probable date for the publication of the report of the Committee; and

(d) whether the report will be made available to the public and to the Members of the Legislative Assembly as soon as completed?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: (a) The Mica Enquiry Committee are still engaged in the examination of witnesses in the mica areas.

(b) The Committee hope to submit its report to Government by the end of August 1945.

(c) and (d). Government are unable to make a pronouncement at this stage.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: May I know why this committee was formed? What was the necessity for this committee?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: I would refer my Honourable friend to the *communiqué* which was issued by the Government on this subject.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member will read or give us a short summary—probably I would like to ask some question.

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: It has been published in the *Gazette*.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact that the committee was formed at the instance of the manager of the Christian Company?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: No.

EXPENDITURE, ETC., ON DELHI POLYTECHNIC

1061. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essals Sait: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state;

(a) the annual expenditure on the Delhi Polytechnic, the total number of students receiving training therein, the number of Muslims among them, the total number of the staff and the number of Muslims on the staff;

(b) the concessions, scholarships and free studentships granted in the institution; how many of them are given to Muslims and how many to non-Muslims;

(c) whether the Honourable Member proposes to consider the necessity for taking special steps to attract Muslim students in adequate numbers and to provide for adequate number of Muslims on the staff; and

(d) whether he proposes to reserve a sufficient number of seats at this institution for Muslims as is done at MacLagan Civil Engineering College, Moghalpura?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The annual expenditure on the Delhi Polytechnic which varies from year to year was about Rs. 3.86 lacs in 1943-44 excluding the cost of new buildings. The total number of students on the rolls on the 31st August, 1944 was 1,113 out of whom 280 (25.2 per cent.) were Muslims. On the 1st January, 1945, 25 out of 92 members of the staff (27.2 per cent.) were Muslims.

(b) During 1944-45, full fee and half-fee concessions were granted to 159 students in all out of whom 49 (30.2 per cent.) were Muslims. No scholarships are given by Government.

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

(c) and (d). No; Muslims seem to be availing themselves readily of the facilities available and there is no reason to believe that Muslim interests are being overlooked in the Delhi Polytechnic.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know what is the percentage of the Muslim population in Delhi where this Polytechnic is situated?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I cannot answer what the Muslim population of Delhi is, but in any case I regard this as an all-India institution.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Das: How many students are there from the Scheduled Classes in this institution and how many of them are getting full fee or half fee concessions?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I must ask for notice.

FAILURE IN EMBARKATION OF CERTAIN HAJ PILGRIMS AT KARACHI

†1062. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please refer to his reply to parts (c) and (d) of my starred question No. 423 of the 15th November, 1944, regarding embarkation arrangement for Haj Pilgrims at Karachi and state:

(a) why the ten persons to whom tickets had been issued failed to embark; from which Province or Provinces these persons arrived in Karachi;

(b) whether the failure to embark on board the ship was on the part of the Government or the persons themselves;

(c) if the failure was on the part of Government, the reasons therefor;

(d) if the failure was on the part of the persons, whether it was due to the fact that they were not informed in time by the Pilgrim Officer; if so, why; what action is proposed to be taken against the Pilgrim Officer; if none, why;

(e) whether Government paid compensation to these persons for the loss thus sustained; and

(f) the number of deaths at the Haji's camp, Karachi, during October, 1944?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). They arrived at the wharf too late to embark on the ship. The failure to embark was thus on their own part. They came from the United Provinces and Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is not a fact that the failure on the part of these persons was due to Haj Officer's failure to furnish necessary information. The time by which pilgrims should be at the wharf, was duly notified by the Haj staff as well as by the Shipping Company's staff. All pilgrims but these ten reached the wharf in time and embarked. This party of ten consisted of well educated persons some of whom had performed the pilgrimage in the past. The rest of this question does not arise.

(e) No.

(f) Four.

FAILURE IN EMBARKATION OF BENGAL HAJ PILGRIMS AT KARACHI

†1063. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please refer to his reply to my starred question No. 424 of the 15th November, 1944, regarding Haj Pilgrimage and supply the information now?

(b) Has his attention been drawn to the fact that 175 Haj pilgrims from Bengal had been compelled to return to Bengal from Karachi disappointed?

(c) Do Government propose to compensate these disappointed pilgrims? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that certain intending Haj pilgrims who were definitely asked to go to pilgrimage in the second batch were compelled to go in the first batch failing which their steamer fares were liable to be forfeited?

(e) Is it a fact that in consequence of this act of the Haj Officer, some of them had to face difficulties and hardships? If so, what action do Government propose to take to compensate the loss and inconvenience caused to such pilgrims?

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

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). 70, and not 175, persons from Bengal and Assam, who had failed to comply with Government's instructions published in the press, came to Karachi in the hope of securing passages somehow and had to return home for lack of shipping accommodation.

(c) No; because according to the instructions published they were not entitled to passages and because Government do not, in any case, own any obligation to pay compensation in such cases.

(d) In view of the limited number of pilgrims for whom accommodation could be provided Government had no alternative to insisting on applicants embarking by the first ship available after the receipt of their applications. Otherwise the inevitable result would have been that ships of the first batch would have gone mostly empty while there would have been an excessive rush for those of the second batch and a large number of pilgrims would have been left behind. Pilgrims who had applied for passages in time to be sent by the first batch were, therefore, restricted as a rule to that particular batch because applicants generally showed a tendency to sail by the second batch, presumably after receiving the news of the safe arrival of the first batch at Jeddah. In spite of this precaution taken to ensure that the maximum number of pilgrims would sail the ships of the first batch had to sail with nearly 900 pilgrims less than they had accommodation for.

(e) Does not arise.

LIMITED NUMBER OF PURCHASE LICENCES FOR GROUNDNUTS, ETC., ISSUED IN MADRAS

1064. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that licences are given by the Civil Supplies Commissioner, Madras, only to one or two contractors or traders to purchase groundnuts, cake, oil, *gur* or other agricultural commodity from the whole or a specified part of a district and no one else is allowed to purchase such commodities;

(b) whether any minimum or any set scale of prices are fixed for such commodities; and, if so, on what basis and in consultation with whom—the local trade or peasants; and, if not, why not; and

(c) why Government have denied the benefit to peasants of either competition between traders or a fixed and enforceable price for such commodities?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Provincial Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

EXPORT OF *GUR* TO MIDDLE EAST

1065. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Government contemplate allowing exports of *gur* from India to the Middle East countries?

(b) If so; what are the total quantities involved, giving details, country and quantitywise?

(c) Was *gur* ever exported before? If so, what are the details of the quantities despatched to various countries?

(d) Do Government contemplate distribution of *gur* export quotas to different firms on certain basis? If so, what are they?

(e) Do Government contemplate following in case of *gur* exports the basic principle of granting export permits to firms which have previously exported the stuff, and which principle they generally follow in case of other commodities?

(f) If the above basic principle is not to be followed in the case of *gur* exports, what are the reasons for deviation in this particular matter?

(g) What are the quantities of *gur* export quotas contemplated to be distributed to the firms of different communities?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b) and (d) to (g). A proposal to export *gur* is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(c) Yes; to a small extent. A statement showing the export of *gur* to certain countries in the Middle East is placed on the table of the House.

Statement showing exports of gur to certain countries in the Middle East

Name of country	Quantity of gur in tons exported during the year		
	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
1. Iran		11.0	1,096.0
2. Iraq		211.0	269.0
3. Bahrain	0.3	0.2	
4. Trucial Coast	0.7	77.5	9.0
5. Saudi Arabia		1.0	
6. Hydrabut	241.0	4.0	
7. Aden	41.0	0.5	

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the gur is being exported through the instrumentality of the U. K. C. C.?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Then who are the parties who will be given a license to export?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already answered that question. The proposal is under consideration by the Government of India and I am not in a position to make a statement at this stage; but I wish to assure the Honourable Member that it will not be the U. K. C. C.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why export it at all when this country needs it?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact

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

GHEE PURCHASING AGENCIES

1066. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly state whether all the area comprising the Punjab, U. P. and the adjoining area of Indian States, like Gwalior and different States of Central India as well as different States of Rajputana, are assigned by Government to one agent for purchasing ghee since the last four years and before that for a number of years for the whole of India? If so, why have all other well-known firms throughout India been debarred so long from so acting?

(b) Is it a fact that the policy of Government is to invite, from time to time, well-known firms to offer their services as agents for purchase of ghee? If so, why has that policy not been given effect to in all cases, and in what cases have they deviated from this policy and for what reasons?

(c) Have Government been satisfied with the working results of all their agents who are and were acting as their ghee purchasing agents? If so, have they been able to gather the quantities required of them, and has this quantity been sufficient to meet the requirements of army, and further why is it that in recent years Indian army is supplied more and more vegetable product?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. Owing to satisfactory performance it has not been necessary to consider replacement of the firm in question in this area.

(b) Yes; an exception was made in the case of Messrs. Alopi Prashad and Sons Ltd., for the reason stated in my reply to part (a).

(c) Government have been satisfied with the performance of their agents, except those who have been replaced. Procurement has been up to the requirements of the Army.

Increase in supply of vegetable product is due to limited amount of good quality milk-ghee available, and the needs of the civilian population.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know the names of the agents who have been replaced?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is one firm which I can name just now, and that is the Ghee Supply Company, Limited, of Calcutta; they were replaced for the reason given in answer to part (c).

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What were the reasons which made the Government cancel the agency? Is it anything particular or mere dissatisfaction?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already stated that we were not satisfied with their work.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Exactly. What was the fault of the agents?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to go into the matter at this stage, as certain inquiries are in progress.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know since when Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons are enjoying the monopoly of ghee supply?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Alopi Prasad concern was appointed the sole ghee purchasing agent for the military in 1926.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Long live Alopi Prasad!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Am I to understand that this particular company has been enjoying a monopoly from 1926 till now?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that this firm of Alopi Prasad is responsible for the adulteration of good ghee in the neighbourhood between Delhi and Agra and it is impossible on account of the influence of this firm to get good ghee in the neighbourhood?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not accept the suggestion contained in the question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If the Honourable Member is not aware of the fact that good ghee is not available within this area, then the Honourable Member is not familiar with the conditions of life of the Department over which he presides—if he does not know an elementary fact that anybody knows.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a matter of opinion. I feel that I know my business much more than the Honourable Member sitting there.

(Some Honourable Members rose to ask questions.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. It is 12 o'clock, and this interesting matter must be dropped.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

GHEE PURCHASING AGENCIES

1067. **Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly state if it is a fact that, while one of the ghee supplying agents has been continually enjoying the purchase monopoly for Government in a very large area of India for several years, the other agents' area is being restricted and the quantities are also being reduced? If so, why is this discrimination both with regard to area and quantity?

(b) Is it a fact that very recently by public notice applications were invited from well-known firms to act as purchasing agents for ghee? If so, for what period were they appointed, and is it a fact that their activities are being suddenly curtailed?

(c) What was the number of the ghee purchasing agents, and why was a new agent appointed when the activities of those serving were to be curtailed?

(d) Will Government state the areas including States from which different agents are now required to purchase?

(e) Do Government propose to revise the allocation of areas between different agents so as to give equal opportunities to all the different agents to make purchases?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Prior to 1942 one firm had the sole agency for the whole of India. When the Army demand increased other firms were introduced to make supplies. In consequence of a reduction in the Army demand recently some agents areas have been restricted and all agents quantities have been reduced. On the 21st February 1945 two firms were given three months notice of termination of their agreements. In July 1944 applications were invited by advertisement. The period of appointment is one year.

(c) Four agents were functioning when the new agent was appointed. His appointment on the 1st December 1944 was necessary in order to operate the Madras Area. The curtailment in the total demand was not known at that time.

(d) A statement is placed on the table.

(e) I am re-examining the matter.

Name of the Agent	Area of operation as on 1st March 1945
Alopi Prasad & Sons Ltd.	United Provinces Punjab, Punjab State, Gwalior State, Central India States and certain Rajputana States.
Piloo D. Sidhya & Co.	Kathiawar, Baroda State, Palanpur State and Gujarat Agency.
Hocceinbhoys Sons & Co.	Central Provinces & Berar, Rewa State and Hyderabad State.
Sind Ghee Purchasing Agency	Sind, Las Bela State, Jaisalmer State, Kalat and Baluchistan.
British India Trading Co.	Madras Province.

CONTROVERSY BETWEEN MESSRS. S. A. DANGE AND A. K. MUKERJI

1068. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to press reports of the skirmish between Messrs. S. A. Dange and A. K. Mukerji on the question of nomination of representative of All-India Trade Union Congress and Indian Federation of Labour on the Credentials Committee of the World Trade Unions Congress recently held in London; published in the *Daily Gazette* of Karachi, dated the 8th February, 1945; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to discourage the recognition of labour organizations in India like the Indian Labour Federation; if none, why?

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

(b) None, as the Indian Federation of Labour has a substantial following among workers.

STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA

1069. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if the Government of India are either going to send their officers to study agricultural and industrial conditions in Russia or import any experts from Russia to give advice in matters relating to health, agriculture and geology? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The question is under consideration by the Departments concerned.

The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that, on the invitation of the Government of India, a Russian Expert, Prof. Ognev, recently visited India to hold discussions with the Health Development Committee.

CERTAIN ORDER OF RATIONING CONTROLLER, DELHI

1070. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state whether, in pursuance of the reply given by him on the 28th February, 1945, to question No. 542, regarding a recent order of the Rationing Authorities, Delhi, he proposes to advise the Delhi Administration to suspend all the pending demands for security deposit made on the business establishments till such time as the matter is finally settled by him?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The answer is in the affirmative.

FIXING SUGAR QUOTAS IN DELHI

1071. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the principle, if any, guiding the Rationing Authorities in Delhi in deciding the amounts of sugar quota to be granted to various applicants?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I assume that the Honourable Member is referring to the allotment of quotas to restaurants and other establish-

ments by the Delhi Rationing authorities. For those establishments which were in existence before the introduction of rationing, quotas are based on the number of customers and the actual consumption of the establishment during the previous year. Establishments which were not in existence at the commencement of rationing are not entitled to any quota but allotments to them are made only for exceptional reasons.

BULK PERMITS ISSUED TO DELHI HINDUSTANI MERCANTILE ASSOCIATION

1072. *Mr. Kallash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is not a fact that the Delhi Hindustani Mercantile Association was given two bulk permits for export by rail, 3,000 bales of cotton cloth to U. P. and 500 bales to Rajputana for the months of January and February, 1945?

(b) if it is a fact that, in pursuance of these bulk permits issued to the merchants of Delhi, the dealers from U. P. and Rajputana duly got their consignments ready to be booked, when all of a sudden the authorities asked the Mercantile Association not to issue permits to the merchants and simultaneously asked the Railway Authorities not to book the consignments unless permitted by the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies (Textiles), Delhi;

(c) if it is not a fact that since the promulgation of the Delhi Cotton Cloth (Export by Road) Control Order, 1944, on the 30th December, 1944, permits were granted only for one or two days to the cloth merchants of Delhi for exporting cloth to U. P. by road with the result that the movement of cloth to U. P. even by road was totally stopped; and

(d) if it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of cloth in U. P. and Rajputana and that the failure to despatch the cloth to those areas is causing great hardships to the consumers in those places?

The Honourable Sir M. Asirul Huque: (a) Yes. The permits were received in Delhi on the 1st March 1945.

(b) Yes. The Assistant Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, issued instructions on the 6th March 1945 to the Railway authorities not to book any consignment of cloth under these permits unless the forwarding note was signed by him. This was done in order to keep a record and to control the movement of cloth. Instructions have since been issued to permit the despatch of the bales in question and the entire quantity is expected to move out of Delhi by the end of this month.

(c) The Delhi Cotton Cloth (Export by Road) Control Order, 1944, was promulgated in order to prevent evasion of the prohibition on rail transport which was gated in order to prevent evasion of the prohibition on rail transport which was being practised following the inclusion of Delhi in the Punjab Deficit Zone. Permits for export by road were not issued at the time as it had not been decided then that Delhi should be a distributing centre for certain parts of the U. P. and Rajputana, and also the quota for U. P. had not been received.

(d) As cloth is being despatched from Delhi, the question does not arise.

BULK PERMITS ISSUED TO DELHI HINDUSTANI MERCANTILE ASSOCIATION

1073. *Mr. Kallash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that before the information about the promulgation of the Delhi Cotton Cloth (Export by Road) Order, 1944, could be known to the merchants of Delhi, the authorities seized the bales of cloth that were moving by road;

(b) if it is a fact that the seized bales of cloth remained lying in the custody of the authorities for about two months and, that subsequently, the said seized cloth was allowed to be restored to the merchant-owners only after sealing them; and

(c) if it is a fact that since then the bales of cloth are lying sealed in the custody of the merchants and that they are neither allowed to be despatched nor is any step taken against the merchants?

The Honourable Sir M. Asirul Huque: (a) No.

(b) The cloth seized for contravention of the said Order has in some cases been released to the owners at their request under the orders of the Court trying such cases on account of lack of safe custody arrangements. The bales have been sealed, as they have to be produced intact before the Court when required.

(c) Owing to the large number of persons involved, investigation has taken some time, but it is expected to take the case to court within a few days.

SEIZING OF ACCOUNT BOOKS OF MERCHANTS BY THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, DELHI

1074. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, please state:

(a) if it is not a fact that the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1943, provides for inspection of any books or documents belonging to, or under the control of, any person and that there is no provision for seizure of any account books;

(b) if it is a fact that the Enforcement Officer, Delhi, has seized the account books of the merchants of Delhi who are supposed to have contravened the provision of the Cloth Control Order, and kept the said account books in his own custody for months together, causing inconvenience to the merchants; and

(c) in how many cases the account books of Delhi merchants have been seized and detained by the Enforcement Officer?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No specific provision for seizure of account books exists in the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order.

(b) Account books were taken possession of by the Enforcement Officer only for production in court as exhibits in cases in which offences were alleged to have been committed. As soon as the detention of the books was not considered necessary, they were returned under the orders of the court.

(c) 18 cases.

APPOINTMENT OF AGENT FOR PURCHASING COTTON CLOTH FROM BOMBAY AND AHMEDABAD FOR DELHI

1075. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, has appointed a purchasing agent for purchasing Cotton Cloth from the Bombay and Ahmedabad markets for Delhi;

(b) if it is a fact that the Delhi Hindustani Mercantile Association has made a representation to the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, that the practice of purchase through a purchasing agent should be discontinued, and that the permits should be granted to the dealers individually or to the groups of the dealers;

(c) if it is a fact that the Textile Commissioner is prepared to deliver cloth to the leaders of the various groups of dealers having permits from the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi; and

(d) if the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to accede to the proposal of the Delhi merchants; if not, why not?

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

(b) No, special representation has been received.

(c) and (d). The Textile Commissioner is, of course, prepared to deliver cloth to more than one nominee of a Provincial Government or administration but to select such nominees is entirely a matter for the local administration whose action has the support of the local advisory Committee.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

WRITTEN ANSWER

(Postponed from March 13, 1945)

COAL SUPPLIED TO CIVIL POPULATION IN BIHAR

956. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of coal supplied to the civil population in Bihar during 1943-44; and

(b) the conditions on which coal is supplied to the civil population?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). Figures for March, 1943 to January, 1944 are not available. 5,219 tons were supplied against the Bihar Provincial quota from 12th February, 1944 to 29th February, 1944 and 8,228 tons of coal and coke during March, 1944. This Provincial quota was for domestic consumption and the use of various small industries in that province not engaged on war supply. The detailed distribution of the supplies received against the Provincial quota among the different consumers is the responsibility of the Provincial Government, and the Government of India has no information about the actual quantities of coal or coke supplied for domestic consumption by the civil population of Bihar, or the conditions, if any, on which these supplies are made.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

LICENCES UNDER DELHI COTTON CLOTH DEALERS' LICENSING ORDER

90. Mr. Kallash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state how many licences in classes A, B, C and E were issued under the Delhi Cotton Cloth Dealers' Licensing Order, 1944, to those dealers who started their business after December, 1942?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS AT TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Declaration* and Recommendations* adopted by the twenty-sixth Session of the International Labour Conference.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): Sir, I move:

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

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

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

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'seven' be substituted."

In anticipation that the Congress and the Muslim League would be taking part in this election, I thought it desirable to increase the number from 'five' to 'seven', so that the Committee may be truly representative.

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

"That for the word 'five' the word 'seven' be substituted."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (West Coast and Nilgiris: Moham-madan): I just want to say that my friend Mr. Deshmukh was wrong in his assumption that we are going to take part in this. The Muslim League is not going to take part in the election or the voting.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In the circumstances, I withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

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

*Not printed in these Debates, but copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—
ed. of D.

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

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR HOME DEPARTMENT:

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Sir, with your permission and on the assumption that the Muslim League and the Congress Parties intend to take part, I would like to substitute the word 'five' for the word 'three' in the motion I am about to move. Sir, I move:

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

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

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

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I do not propose to move my amendment.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadian Urban): I am told that the Honourable Member in charge of the Home Department has accepted a compromise and has agreed to raise the number of members on this committee from 3 to 5 and I am told that there is an understanding that each of the organised Parties in this House will select one member and the unattached Members will select one. Is that information correct? I have been given this information. If there is any such understanding, then it will not be necessary to move any amendment. Otherwise, Sir, I think it will be necessary to move an amendment to increase the number to 7 or 8, because if the Congress Party, which is the largest Party in this House and the Muslim League Party, which is the next largest, want to have a very large number of members on this committee, the other organised Parties and the unattached Members will go unrepresented. That would create a very unsatisfactory situation.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The position is this. I understood that three was too small. I told the Government Whip to talk to the whips of the other Parties and settle a reasonable number which would prove acceptable. I was told that the whips of parties had agreed to five. That is why I moved for five. The distribution is really for the Parties to settle among themselves. I was told that an agreement had been reached, on the basis of five.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: The Whip did not approach me.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): I am not going to question the agreement which is said to have been arrived at between the Whips but I do contend that the Government in fixing the number should take into consideration the fact that all the groups in this House should be adequately represented.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is exactly what I have done.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: There is the European Group. There is the Nationalist Party and there are the unattached Members. If you are going to fix the number at 5, there is every danger of these groups and parties being left out. It is for the Government to fix a reasonable number. We are not going to quarrel about it. There is no objection to 5 if an agreement has been arrived at, but personally I think 7 would be an appropriate number.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran; Non-Muhammadian): I had a talk with Sir Francis Mudie and I said that if the number was 5 instead of 3, it would satisfy all Parties. After that I had a talk with Dr. Banerjee and he said that 5 will not satisfy them. He suggested 6.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: How will this number 5 be distributed among the Parties?

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): I submit we ought to have a statement from the Honourable the Home Member or the whips as to how this arrangement was arrived at. Under the present figure, the unattached Members may be left out and the transferable vote will be of no use.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The whips told the Home Member that an agreement had been reached?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There is an amendment of Mr. Essak Sait for 'eight'. If the House is agreeable to 'eight', then it will be agreeable to me. The point is that I was told there was an agreement and my motion was according to that agreement.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Do I take it that the House then wants 'eight'?

Some Honourable Members: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Essak Sait will then move his amendment.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I find myself in this difficulty. I am a party to this agreement to fix the number at 'five'. The first proposal was for 'three', then we had a talk and fixed it at 'five'. If the Government is agreeable to have 'eight', I shall be very happy to move my amendment. Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'three' the word 'eight' be substituted."

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

"That for the word 'three' the word 'eight' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Home Department."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Labour Department is concerned."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Labour Department is concerned."

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Sir, in view of the growing importance of labour problems in the country, it is very necessary that the Committee should consist of ten members.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No long speech is necessary. Amendment moved:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

There are other amendments in the names of Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh and Mr. Essak Sait.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): My amendment is for 'eight'. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam's amendment is for 'ten' and so mine is covered in that amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House may not accept that amendment.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: I am a party to the agreement that there should be 'five'. So, I am not moving my amendment.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: I have not finished my speech, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): My amendment is for 'six'. I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'six' be substituted."

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

"That for the word 'five' the word 'six' be substituted."

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam. It is very seldom that he and I are in agreement, but there is something wrong with the Labour Department of the Government of India. This is a Department which has created a very bad precedent of employing women in mines.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into the merits of the administration of the Department.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I am making a very short speech.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow even a short speech on a matter which does not arise. The motion is only for the election of a Committee.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Then, I simply sum up by saying that the affairs of this Department require very close scrutiny and so, ten Members should form the Committee.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am prepared to accept the amendment.

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

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Labour Department is concerned."

The motion was adopted.

(At this stage, it was noticed that there were loud conversations going on amongst Members and there was much noise.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. There is too much noise. The proceedings cannot be carried on if there is such noise. Sir Jeremy Raisman.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I am not moving this motion* today.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following committees, namely:

	Date for nomination	Date for election
(1) Standing Committee for the Department of Supply	19th March	22nd March
(2) Standing Committee for the Home Department	19th March	22nd March
(3) Standing Committee for the Labour Department	19th March	23rd March

The nominations for all the three Committees will be received in the Notice Office up to 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of

*That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the financial year 1945-46, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a Member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The Member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee.

[Mr. President]

elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to the Central Advisory Council for Railways during 1945-46: (1) Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, (2) Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, (3) Mr. H. M. Abdullah, (4) Mr. H. G. Stokes, (5) Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, and (6) Lala Sham Lal.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): Sir, at the outset, I should like to pay a tribute, in which I am sure all sections of the House will join to the armed forces of India for their magnificent exploits in all theatres of war during the past year. I should like to remind the House of the contrast between the news from the Burma front this year, and the news from the same theatre of war last year. It would be appropriate and encouraging to those concerned if a message went from this House of special congratulations to the 14th Army which during the past twelve months, has completely revolutionised the scene on India's frontier, and has won what I believe will be classed as one of the most brilliant campaigns in history. I should also like to pay a specially warm tribute—and here I believe I am voicing the opinions of all, irrespective of their political views—to the work of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief during the past year—his untiring labours in fitting the forces under his command for their operational responsibilities, his ready access at all times to suggestions which may come from Members of this House or from the outside world and his very keen anxiety to bring to the notice of the Indian public the special problems of India's armed forces.

Sir, last year I made rather special reference to the Royal Indian Navy which at that time I felt was not getting sufficient attention, or indeed receiving justice at the hands of those concerned. I was very glad to hear the other day from the Flag Officer Commanding that the Royal Indian Navy is no longer the Cinderella of the Forces. But I should like to ask my Honourable friend the War Secretary what has in fact happened to certain points which I made last year and which I will now specify. On the last occasion on which I asked questions on these matters the reply was the phrase that "they were under consideration". I first referred to these questions last year I pursued them by means of questions in the last Session of the Legislature. I would now like my Honourable friend to give me, if he can, explicit replies to the following four points:

Firstly, what has happened to the question of the pensions of ratings, petty officers and chief petty officers of the Royal Indian Navy, which, as I pointed out last year, had not changed since the last war, were wholly inadequate and in some cases half or a quarter the rates of pensions received by the other ranks of the Indian Air Force?

Secondly, what has happened to the suggestion which I made that chief petty officers should be treated, for the purpose of journeying by train, with greater respect, and that they should not be required to travel with ratings in third class compartments?

Thirdly, what has happened to the proposal which I made that, as in the Royal Navy, extra pay should be given to junior ratings who are doing senior ratings' work—and there are many such cases.

And, finally, what has happened to that curious custom which persists in the Royal Indian Navy whereby

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Splicing the main brace?

Sir F. E. James: That is not peculiar to the Royal Indian Navy. The particular custom to which I refer is peculiar to the Royal Indian Navy, and it does not exist in the Royal Navy; hence my question.

What has happened to the curious custom which persists in the Royal Indian Navy whereby when officers go to sea in an executive capacity, they are charged by means of deductions from their pay, the rent of the cabins which they occupy? It has always seemed to me to be an extraordinarily curious custom, and I have ascertained that this custom persists in no other navy in the world. Why then in the Royal Indian Navy?

Now, Sir, I should like to say a word about certain matters connected with the Indian Air Force. And here may I—I hope on behalf of all of us in the House—convey to that small but gallant force our congratulations upon His Majesty's pleasure in conferring the title "Royal"? That is a recognition of magnificent work. When the time comes for the history of the Indian Air Force to be written, specially of its early days, it will be found that India owes a very great deal to a small band of gallant men who were the pioneers of that arm. It is perhaps well to remember that the Indian Air Force—or the Royal Indian Air Force as it now is called—is really one of the fruits of the work of the Skeen Committee, on which were two distinguished Members of this House, Mr. Jinnah and Pandit Motilal Nehru; and that the force came into being twelve years ago as a result of that Committee. I am reminded that my Honourable and gallant friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin was also a member of that Committee; and I am very glad that he can share in the warm congratulations which I should like to pass on to the members of that Committee. Adequate reserves of trained and experienced pilots are necessary and not easy to obtain. But I am glad to notice the fine work that is being done in five universities by the Indian Air Training Corps; and I know that in that enterprise our gallant and learned friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin played a conspicuous part.

Sir, I should like to refer to one grievance which has been represented to me, in so far as the pay of the other ranks of the Royal Indian Air Force is concerned. I may say that these grievances were not represented to me in that sense. I had a visit a short while ago from some young men from South India, some of whom were friends or sons of friends of mine, who came to say good-bye before they went off to an operational area. In the course of conversation which I had with these young men I elicited a number of facts to which I should like to draw my Honourable friend's attention. In some of the groups of the ordinary ranks of the Royal Indian Air Force young men who are recruited—recruited with fairly high educational qualifications—begin on a starting pay of Rs. 60 a month. After a proficiency test this is raised to Rs. 65 for aircraftmen of the first class. Later on they can get Rs. 70 a month if they become leading aircraft men or Rs. 100 a month if they become Corporals. And I would remind my Honourable friend that before these young men can get into the Air Force, a knowledge of the English language and the Matriculation Examination are essential qualifications.

Now, Sir, they were going off to an operational area; they were worried about their families. They claim that on this pay, where they have no special family allowance, they are not able to give adequate assistance to their families. I compared their position with the position of the tradesmen in the army. In the army the basic pay of the sepoy is from Rs. 18 to Rs. 27 a month; but for tradesmen there is a special trade pay of Rs. 2 a day on the basis of a thirty-day month. Therefore whereas a proficient airman, who starts with higher educational qualifications, can only get Rs. 70 a month, a proficient army tradesman, who does not start with the same high qualifications, can get between Rs. 78 and Rs. 87 per month.

Let me remind my Honourable friend how the Royal Indian Air Force looks after their men in so far as family allowances are concerned. In the R. A. F. I understand, a Leading Aircraftman gets Rs. 125 per month, but if he is married and has two children he receives in addition to that pay Rs. 210 per month.

[Sir F. E. James.]

for his family. The fundamental basis of any air force is an efficient, well-trained, and contented ground staff, and I do think that these Other Ranks in these particular groups of the R. I. A. F. have a grievance. I should be most grateful if my Honourable friend would look into it.

Now, Sir, I am going to leave the armed forces and deal with a number of matters which, in some cases concern my constituency and which in some cases, I have been specifically asked to raise.

I will first of all deal with one of the Centrally Administered Areas—sometimes they are called the Centrally distressed areas!—namely Coorg. There is at present no representative from Coorg in this House and I have been asked to make certain representations on behalf of that province. Coorg has a population of approximately 160,000. Out of that population they have supplied a very high proportion of Coorgies for the armed services. They have provided no less than 150 Emergency Commissioned Officers in addition to a number of regular officers among whom are Brigadier Kariappa, the senior Indian Officer of the Indian Army, and Brigadier Thimmayya, who is now serving with distinction on the Burma front. I therefore claim that Coorg is making a signal contribution to India's war effort.

Sir, Coorg and indeed other Centrally Administered Areas are suitable areas for experimental measures which, if successful, could be carried out elsewhere on a much larger scale: e.g., malaria control, town and country planning, medical relief, education and last but not least administration. Indeed as long as the Central Government has a more direct responsibility for them than it has for the other provinces in India, they should be models to the rest of India. I regret to say, that is not the case today.

I would draw attention, for example, to the proposal for a hydro-electric scheme in Coorg on which last year a reconnaissance report was made. This Coorg water fall is probably the third largest on the West Coast, coming after the Periar and Jog falls. Power derived from these waters would be available for the use of the whole South Kanara and Malabar, thus relieving some of the strain on Pykara. The harnessing of this fall may also encourage the growth of certain industries in Coorg, and the diversion of the river would help to irrigate a fair area of land in Malabar. I should like to know what has happened to that report, and which department of Government is dealing with it?

My own experience of Coorg—and it now extends over nearly twenty years—has shown me that the Central Government has no machinery at headquarters for ensuring that the needs of Coorg, and indeed of the Centrally Administered Areas, have Government's constant attention. There is no one department here which seems to be responsible for these small areas. I have known of cases in which the Chief Commissioner of Coorg has addressed the Government of India on vitally important matters, such as the fixation of food prices, transport problems, and public health, but in spite of repeated reminders has not been able to obtain any reply or even acknowledgment. I suggest to Government that either now, or when the manpower situation is less acute, that there should be some officer at the headquarters of the Central Government who is responsible for dealing with these Centrally Administered areas and who would be a channel of communication from the heads of those administrations to the various departments of the Central Government which may be concerned. As it is, when the Chief Commissioner writes to the Government of India, the letter is passed on to one or other of the departments concerned and there it gets lost in the maze of the Secretariat. As long as the Central Government holds a special responsibility for these areas, I suggest that they ought to ensure that they are efficiently administered and their needs constantly and carefully attended to.

Now, I turn to another matter on which some of my constituents feel very strongly indeed, and that is the question of the grocery shops for civil officers which the Government of India have opened not only at the Centre but in some of the provinces. I want to suggest to the Government of India that in view

of the increasing availability of consumer goods which we are told will come in the next few months the time has come for the closing down of these shops which cater to one section of the community. I know that the basis on which these shops were opened was that Government servants should be ensured of supplies of as many of the ordinary requirements as possible at minimum prices. But why single out Government civil servants? I admit that these shops are not in any way a burden upon the tax-payer, but it is strongly held by members of our constituencies that the existence of these shops deepen and perpetuate a most unfortunate distinction between the official and the non-official. They unduly increase shortage of supplies for the general population and they tend to relieve Government of the urge to control prices and are a bad substitute for a dearness allowance. I fully understand the anxiety of Government to protect their own officers from the rapacity of the retailer; but the proper way, to do that is, first of all, to institute a general control so that all of us may be so protected and, secondly, if necessary, give their Government employees an adequate dearness allowance.

We will be told that there is no discrimination in favour of Government servants by the opening of these shops, that direct imports are arranged by cutting out intermediaries, and that these requirements which are allocated to these Government shops are only the correct proportion of the total amount of goods which would be distributable to Government servants. That will not work, it cannot work and the department concerned, which I believe is the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, has before it a case of one article in which there was before the war a turnover of between £7,000 to £8,000. Government has now indented for between £5/6,000 worth of this article for 1945. Yet since 1941 the importing agents have only been permitted to import £1,000 worth over a period of 3½ years, and applications for import licenses are still pending. It is quite impossible; whatever their intention, to separate completely the requirements of the Government servant from the available imported supplies for the rest of the population. I do not want to continue in any form the rather foolish and unhappy controversy which has been going on in some sections of the press between what is called the sheep and the goats. But I do suggest that the provision of these special shops for civil Government servants has left a legacy of unfortunate misunderstanding between the official and the non-official. I am not aware that this measure has been taken in any other country in the Empire. I am very sorry it was ever taken here and I do hope that my Honourable friends in Government circles will realise the necessity of closing these shops down as soon as possible.

As this is the Honourable Member's last appearance in this House as Finance Member, I am tempted to raise two points and to draw, if I may, upon his unrivalled experience in these matters. He himself has in fact invited the House to do so not only in his budget speech but in subsequent speeches that he has made during this Session. I am not an economist and therefore I would not dream of entering those rather difficult realms in which he and my colleague Mr. Tyson find themselves so free and at home. But there are just two matters to which I should like to refer.

The first is my Honourable friend's references to post-war fiscal policy, and the second is the relation between finance and the great schemes for post-war development which are now under consideration.

With regard to my Honourable friend's remarks on post-war fiscal policy. On the whole India has relied upon its peace time structure of taxation, supplemented by emergency taxes like excess profits tax, and by increased rates and surcharges in existing taxes and by an extension of the central excises, which after all is not a new tax to India. But on the whole there has been no fundamental change in the tax structure during the war. But I notice towards the end of my Honourable friend's speech he seemed to consider that a fundamental change was due. There I am inclined to agree with him. He recognises that excess profits tax as an emergency tax must disappear with the end of the war. He talks of estate duty on property. He has not yet

[Sir F. E. James.]

given us any details. Is this duty to be levied on the corpus of the estate or on the passing of the property on inheritance? Does he suggest that what after all is a form of levy on capital should be earmarked for capital expenditure, particularly on the development of the social services and security measures which are now being discussed and considered? Will he also tell the House if the rate of this tax is to be uniform throughout the whole of India?

My Honourable friend then turns to agricultural income-tax which he seems to feel is a logical and useful tax and would secure a contribution to the well being of the country from a section of the community which at present escapes taxation to a very large extent—I mean direct taxation. I do not think anyone can have any objection in principle to a tax on agricultural income. But I suggest to him that three conditions should be observed. First of all, that if a tax on agricultural income is to be levied, then there will be a need for adjustment in the incidence of ordinary land revenue in the provinces, the shifting of the basis of that incidence from one of tax to one of rent: secondly, that the exemption level should be so adjusted as to suit the particular economic conditions of the classes of the community who own and use agricultural land and derive income therefrom: thirdly, that the graded rate should be imposed upon the net income only after every due allowance has been made for agricultural necessities and for the development of the agricultural lands whose income is sought to be taxed.

I will not say anything about the extension of the central excises or the high customs duties which my Honourable friend expects after the war. But I would like to mention in passing his references to the sales tax. Perhaps he will recollect a conversation some years ago (in the early stages of the war) in which it was suggested to him that this tax which had been levied in Madras and had been such a success from the fiscal point of view, that it might, if provinces were consulted and agreeable, become for the purposes of the war an all-India tax on a uniform principle and at a uniform rate, whose proceeds during the war should be devoted to help the Government of India to meet its war expenditure, but after the war should go back to the provinces. If that had been done at that time, India now could have had most valuable resources which, after the war, the provinces would have used for their great post-war development schemes. In Madras, even at the modest rate of one per cent, the budget figure for the current year from the sales tax was Rs. 3½ crores. I suggest that it would be of the greatest possible convenience if the present anomalous position of differing rates in the various provinces were removed, and that the provinces should be asked to agree to a uniform rate and a uniform method of collecting this tax.

Perhaps the most interesting observation made by my Honourable friend was when he dealt with the question of state-ownership and operation of industry, not only public utilities but industries also. He seemed to think that India might in the future look to this as a method of obtaining revenue. But I should like him to lift the curtain a little more upon his mind on that matter. What industries, for example, would he suggest? How would he expect the State to operate them and is he really satisfied, from his experience of State control in this country, that control and operation by the State of individual industries would produce revenue? I am not in the least afraid of facing this issue. I am aware that this Legislature is one of the most properly-conscious legislatures which at present exist in the world; and if in the interests of national well-being it is necessary for the State to own and operate certain industries, well and good. But I suggest that a very careful enquiry is necessary into this and into all other matters relating to post-war taxation in this country. I wonder whether my Honourable friend has thought that the time has come for another Taxation Enquiry Committee which could review all these matters with the detailed and expert knowledge that they really deserve.

My last point deals with the question of the relation between finance and reconstruction and I am impelled to refer to this, partly because my Honourable

friend is shortly going and I would like, if possible, to draw upon his experience before he leaves our shores, and partly because of the experience I and others have gained as members of what is commonly known as the Bhoré Committée, the committee which is studying Post-war Development Schemes for public health and relief. It is quite clear that the cost of some of these schemes, capital and recurring, will be so great that they may well appal those who have to face the problem. I would like to ask my Honourable friend whether he does not consider that it will be necessary in the future to break up the budget estimates into their proper components, as between capital and recurring costs, before the bogey of India's inability to meet these great burdens can be finally exploded. It seems to me that Government expenditure can be divided into three main classes—capital goods, goods and services, and what has been called by one economist, transfer expenses, i.e., special allowances, pensions, etc., under which the State takes money out of the pockets of one group of people and puts into the pockets of another group of people. The Budget for the future should, I suggest, be divided into the Revenue Budget and the Capital Budget, expenditure on capital goods to be met by loans, expenditure on goods and expenditure to be met by revenue. The criterion of the Revenue Budget will presumably be its solvency. The criterion of the Capital Budget, I suggest, will be social profit. And in estimating Capital expenditure, as we have had to do in connection with the scheme for the development of India's public health and medical relief, what price levels are we to adopt? In view of the very large expenditure which Government itself will have to undertake under roads and buildings of all kinds and, drawing from my own experience as a member of this Committee, I believe that one of the most important things that Government should do today is to conduct an enquiry into the machinery which is responsible for carrying out those capital works, the Public Works Department—both Central and Provincial. I want to suggest an enquiry into the whole system of the P. W. D. organisation for capital works, with special reference to economy and standardisation in design, building procedure, including the preparation of contract documents, tenders and sub-contracts, and the relations between the architect and the engineer; and constructional costs under various heads, including labour, organisation and control. I can say this, that on the basis of the preliminary estimates given to the Bhoré Committee by the Central Public Works Department, if these estimates are a real indication of the cost of these capital works, then more than 50 per cent. of our proposals will never come to fruition. It will in fact, be possible for this organisation to block the progress of India's development in these and other matters, unless it is thoroughly and radically overhauled in the way I suggest. I may remind my Honourable friend that His Majesty's Government were faced with the same problem in the United Kingdom and they appointed a Commission to inquire into these very questions which I now have raised, because they realised that in the post-war period there would be great schemes for capital expenditure on roads and buildings of all kinds. They wanted therefore to be perfectly sure that in preparing for those capital works the organisation which would carry them out would be modernised and able to carry them out at the minimum cost to the community. Unless therefore this aspect of the matter is put on a satisfactory basis, I am certain that the success of some of the post-war schemes for social services will be jeopardised.

I have nothing further to say, except in closing to pay a tribute to my Honourable friend the Finance Member. The official tribute on behalf of my Party will be paid at the proper time by my Leader. I would like my Honourable friend to remember that there are men and women of goodwill everywhere in this country who consider that by his wise and careful guidance through the stormy period of the past six years, a period rendered all the more difficult by political complications, he has rendered India a very notable service. I have found that there is a very wide measure of goodwill towards him, and appreciation of his fair-minded and just attitude to all the conflicting claims which he has had to balance so delicately during his term of office. I can say from my personal experience of various matters which I have had to bring to

[Sir F. E. James.]

his notice, that he has been helpful to a degree, and on the evidence of many of his political opponents, he has been a conscientious custodian of India's interests. I wish him Godspeed. When he leaves this country,

1 P.M. and I hope in the years to come, when he will perhaps be pursuing a wholly different avocation, that he will not think too unkindly of the stormy, but I trust, not unhappy days he has spent in this Legislature.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. President, agreeable to convention I present a list of grievances to Government which I shall outline very briefly. I would in the first place ask Government as to what action they propose to take in regard to the future of delegated legislation and ordinances enacted during war time so far as they impinge on the permanent structure of law in this country. My second point will be in regard to international organisations in which this country is financially and otherwise interested. I think this will cover the activities of many Departments of Government. My third observation will be in regard to certain matters in the administration of the Supply Department. My fourth observation will relate to the Food Department in regard to a comparatively small matter of administrative control over the import or manufacture and sale of prepared foods. I would also like to refer while speaking on the Food Department to the subventions paid to provinces either in the matter of maintaining price control or in the matter of assisting provinces in regard to loss by way of deterioration of food grains in storage. My fifth point will be in regard to import control, especially, in the matter of the open general import license about which a gazette notification has been issued recently. I shall perhaps also refer incidentally to the Hydari Mission. My sixth point will be a brief reference to the Bombay Explosions especially in regard to the financial aspect of it. My seventh and last point will be the concern of the Finance Member. While dealing with him I shall not go back on the ground that we have trodden in the previous discussions in this Session, but I shall refer to one particular item, in regard to land-lease facilities from U. S. A., *viz.*, the import of silver on this basis and will refer generally to the policy of the Government in regard to gold and silver sales in this country. I shall make a reference to the dollar credit made available to us, the future of the sterling balances, and lastly to the interest charges on internal debt. I shall close, Sir, with a brief reference to post-war matters, in regard to matters that are of departmental concern. I would like to say that I have mentioned this brief outline and what I am going to say so that Government representatives here might inform Departmental representatives who, if they feel it necessary, may be present while remarks are offered in connection with the work of their Departments, and I hope I shall be free from any obligation to keep my mouth shut because a particular member handling the affairs of the particular Department is not in the House.

My first point deals with a very vital matter. I would refer the House to the question asked by my Honourable friend on my left on the 11th February 1943 in regard to the duration of the operation of the ordinances promulgated by His Excellency the Governor-General. I am mentioning this point advisedly, I am aware of the limitations under which we in this House have to refer to this subject, but as it is purely a matter in regard to the future, I think there will be no objection to my referring to ordinances as well as to the Defence of India Rules. In this connection I would like to say that Mr. Neogy asked the question in February 1943—Will the Honourable Law Member be pleased to explain with reference to the India and Burma Emergency Act what was the position in regard to the ordinances that have been passed? Sir, the position was then explained in order to clear a misconception arising out of a statement made by the Right Honourable Mr. Amery in the House of Commons that the India Burma Emergency Act 1940 related only to the duration of certain ordinances which were purely necessary for the purpose of war. The position was made clear that by reason of the India Burma Emergency Act, ordinances passed under the powers conferred by Section 72, Schedule 9, of the Government

of India Act, will remain part of the permanent structure of law of this country. Further, Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, asked a question on 18th November 1944 in regard to Ordinance No. 45 of 1944 which related to Income-tax administration. I am merely quoting this as an illustration that there have been ordinances—not that I am questioning their validity, or that I do not appreciate the intention behind these ordinances—which affect the permanent structure of law in this country. In reply to that question of Mr. Manu Subedar, it was made clear that the ordinance did affect the permanent structure of law in certain matters and would have the force of law for all time to come. I would like the House to bear with me for a minute and just to look at this file in my hand which indicates the numerous ordinances that have been passed and also at the equally large number of Defence of India Rules that have been promulgated. The need for continual watch in regard to the working of all these ordinances and Defence of India Rules to inquire whether they are still necessary or whether they can be repealed; and also to consider what portion of these ordinances and in what form will be required for the future administration of this country—is what I am going to press in my speech. I would like to illustrate my case by referring to one ordinance which will show how very necessary some kind of investigation is, in this matter. There is an ordinance which was passed on 15th August 1942, Ordinance 41 of 1942. I believe it has a history behind it. It merely seeks—as I understand at any rate from a letter received by my Honourable friend on my left from the Home Department—to make *de jure* a position which already existed in India at any rate at that time. The Ordinance says that it will be competent for any member of His Majesty's Forces, members of Forces of Indian States or of any Foreign Power present in this country, if it is necessary, for the proper performance of his duty so to do, by a general or a special order in writing to require any person under him to use such force as may be necessary even to the causing of death if a person (a) fails to halt (b) does or attempts to do or appears to be about to do or attempt to do any such act, etc. I suppose it will be conceded generally that an extreme provision like this is no longer necessary. I am merely citing this as an instance to show why an investigation in regard to the need for specific ordinances and similar specific Defence of India Rules is called for. I will take my stand—though I believe that analogy is far from being perfect—on what is being done in the House of Commons in regard to similar matters. In the House of Commons during 1943/44 several questions were raised in regard to the operation of laws arising out of the powers delegated to the Executive. In Britain the Executive and the Legislature are not at variance like the position in India, and naturally the Legislature gives a lot of support to the Executive, but even so there is a considerable agitation in the minds of Members of the British Parliament, and questions have been raised off and on in regard to delegated legislation. I believe some time in May 1944 arising out of a motion brought up by a Mr. Molson a committee was appointed—It did not have judicial powers to summon witnesses—to watch not merely the working but also of the necessity for the continuance of the various pieces of delegated legislation in operation and that Committee was to report frequently to the House of Commons. I understand that a person of the eminence of Sir Cecil Carr, eminent in the field of delegated legislation was associated with the Committee. I am only seeking to employ the present opportunity for the purpose of suggesting to this Government that the time is now fit and proper for Government to appoint a Committee to advise them and His Excellency the Governor General as the Head of the Government, how these laws and ordinances should be amended, which of them had better go out of the statute book, which will be necessary in the post-war period and in relation to these in what form legislation will have to be brought before this House. It may be, Sir, that the Honourable Member concerned may for this purpose utilise the Standing Committee that is going to be constituted, or it may be of the nature of an expert body selected from among the members of this House, aided by such legal help as may be furnished by the Secretariat. I do think that this is the proper time for Government to consider this matter and take some action, and

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

that they should not postpone it indefinitely till after the post-war period when the pre-occupations of the Government—whatever Government might be in power—will be so many, that a very necessary matter like this cannot be undertaken.

My second point is in regard to India's interest in international organisations. I would like to mention that India's interest from the financial point of view is very real. I was happy to see that a complaint which I was about to make in my speech today was rendered no longer necessary by reason of the fact that a question was tabled this morning and answered, which showed the interest that the House evinces in regard to our contributions to international organisations and how these contributions were being used, and whether those international organisations deserve the contributions or not. I would like to tell the Honourable Members of this House, who probably may not have the leisure and time that I possess, to go through the book of Demands; they will a number of contributions made by this Government to several international bodies. We make a small contribution to the Empire Parliamentary Association of Rs. 2,700. Under Grant Miscellaneous, No. 70, a number of contributions are made which will repay the effort spent on its scrutiny. The Education, Health and Lands Department, as this House is well aware, is making a contribution towards the food and agricultural organisation of the United Nations—last year it stood in the region of Rs. 1,33,000; in the current year it is going to be Rs. 9,88,000. The House knows that we are making a contribution to the UNRRA both a non-recurring lump sum grant and also a recurring grant towards its administrative expenses. The House makes a contribution to the headquarters of the inter-governmental relief committee for refugees. We also make a contribution to the League of Nations secretariat, besides some contributions specifically to the International Labour Conference which last year was Rs. 26,000, this year will be Rs. 30,000. As the House knows, the Honourable Law Member gave the figures expended on the League of Nations during the years of the war; and for next year this Government will be giving Rs. 13,08,000 to the League of Nations. Last year it gave about Rs. 8,88,000. These large amounts are being paid and I think it is only right that if the House cannot keep itself interested in regard to what is happening about the funds and what is happening to India's position in the various international organisations, the Government should at any rate take upon itself the duty to make the House internationally minded enough to take some interest in this matter. I would suggest this tip to the Leader of the House, that instead of ploughing the sands as he does in trying to clear the cobwebs of misconception and misunderstanding in foreign countries in regard to the position in India of the present Government his Department might very well undertake this necessary task of making the people of this country internationally conscious, by telling them what we are spending on international organisations, how these organisations are constituted; and what we are getting in return, and what we will have to do in future. That will be a very useful line of action for his publicity department instead of trying to portray in foreign countries that all our national leaders as criminals and in trying to make out that anything that is said by our nationals abroad who are not members of his Government as being false. I would like to take this House into some detail in regard to this particular matter, because I think it is of great importance today; and it will be of greater importance in the immediate future. The House will remember that on the 10th February 1939 a resolution was passed by this House asking the Government to give notice to the League of Nations of the termination of its membership; and it was explained at considerable length at that time why this House did not feel inclined to allow India to be a member of the League of Nations; and the most important among those considerations that influence that decision was the exceptionally high contribution which this country has been paying. It has been said that India occupies the fifth position, so far as the important countries in the world are concerned; at any rate that was the decision arrived at at the Bretton Woods Conference, notwithstanding the indefatigable fight that my Honourable friend the Finance Member

and his colleagues put up on behalf of India. But so far as the League of Nations is concerned, so far as our fiduciary interest in the League of Nations is concerned, India is contributing 48 units, as against a payment of 108 units by the United Kingdom. I am not quite sure what the total amount is—I am rather chary of committing myself to any figure—but after some research, I believe I can say it is in the region of 420 units.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): 421, I think.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am very grateful to the Honourable Law Member for his correction. Anyway the House will understand that India enjoys a high position, a position second only in importance to the United Kingdom: whereas even France, which takes precedence over India in the matter of the quota allotted to India in the Bretton Woods Conference, comes much lower. I would like to tell this House that not all that this League does, not all that is contained in that report to which the Honourable the Law Member referred the questioner this morning, is useless. There is one organisation in the international field which has been doing useful work; and that organisation is a part of the League of Nations; and the money that is paid by this country to the League of Nations is also expended on this organisation which is the International Labour Office. The International Labour Office has been doing very useful work in the cause of humanity and in the cause of labour, and nobody can say that what it is doing is wrong. But that is the crux of the situation; what I would like to mention is this: what is the position of the Indian in these organisations? It is not that we want representation according to our population strength; it is not that we want representation according to the amount that we pay. In fact, in a recent publication of the Royal Institute on International Affairs, I find this particular problem referred to and dealt with at some length. It is true that if every country wants representation in the secretariat and organisations of these bodies, it would be very difficult to find every one of them a place; but then one cannot at the same time wipe out the sentiment, the prestige feeling, that people have in this matter. Naturally, if we are contributing an amount which is second only to the United Kingdom, which exercises and has exercised all along such a dominating influence over the League of Nations, one would like to know where we stand. I would like to tell the House that in regard to the labour organisation, I believe Japan some years back by agitating got an under-secretary general into the organisation and India which has a higher position has got nothing all along. I would like this Government, whether it be the Law Department which has taken the technical responsibility for the League of Nations, or the External Affairs Department which apparently takes the financial responsibility for anything spent on this particular body, to urge now that the position of India must be one that will command respect, not merely in the matter of its status, but also in the number of its people that are engaged in positions of importance in the secretariat and other bodies. It is not merely a matter of rupees, annas and pies. It is not merely a matter of having larger numbers employed in these organisations in some capacity or other but it is really a matter of having some men, somebody in a position to exert some influence, somebody who will enhance the prestige of this country; and that is a point which I would like to make. I dare say the House will be with me in urging on the Government to safeguard India's position in this matter, which I think they have perhaps neglected all along owing to other preoccupations.

Sir, I would like to mention another point in this connection and it is this. I need not refer to the U. N. R. R. A. which is having at this moment a rather chequered progress, nor to the food organisation, because on the occasions these subjects were brought before the House, the Members of this House have urged the fact that we should get adequate and suitable representation in the secretariat of these bodies. I should like to mention that with regard to the international set up of the representation of India, there seems to be no cohesion and no policy. The development has been in a lopsided manner and there is

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

really no cohesion there. What we really lack as against the bigger nations of the world is a service personnel which could be put into the various international organisations so that if we once provide that personnel, and if there is to be an Under Secretary of State General for a particular organisation, we can say: "So and so is a fit person by reason of the fact that his knowledge of international law and international affairs is very extensive, and that he knows this country very well and he could represent this country's interest in the particular Secretariat extremely well". We lack that facility and it is because of that fact that I would like to mention here that the Government had better evolve a policy in regard to India's representation in this field. It may be that the Member representing the Commonwealth Relations Department has got his own set of High Commissioners and the men needed for their staff, it may be that the Commerce Department has its own set of Trade Commissioners and again there are a few other such officers under the control of the External Affairs Department. There is no training, no diplomatic experience, no particular equipment for the people chosen for the various positions except that they happen to be members of the Civil Service or members of the Government of India Secretariat or that they have been chosen for other reasons totally unrelated to either their capacity or their own predilections. Now, there is perhaps a constitutional difficulty in the way. I agree that if this matter is going to be entrusted to the External Affairs Department, whose budget will be non-voted this House does not exercise any control over it, and that would not be satisfactory but at the same time there can be a co-ordinated agency here which will not merely have some say in the matter of selection of these officers who go abroad but will naturally have to keep in touch with the External Affairs Department and all other departments in so far as each department is affected. When officers are available who have been carefully chosen and trained properly and if it happens that these international organisations need men for their secretariat, we might say: "We have plenty of people here of the requisite type, we insist on your taking some Indians in". Then the excuse that India cannot furnish the proper personnel will no longer exist. I would now refer to the portents before us and whether we want them or not, unless we are going to say that we shall have nothing to do with what happens outside this country until we get our own Government. International Conferences there will be and International Organisations will be set up in the immediate future. For the time being this country will be represented in the various International Conferences and in the various International Organisations that come into being in such a manner as will primarily be decided by H. M. G. and if not by the present Government. I will refer primarily to that International Monetary Conference which met last year at Bretton Woods. We have had some questions asked here. We have made certain suggestions. But I would like to state here what I have heard elsewhere that India acquitted herself altogether very well, though the results may not show off equally well and I would like to repeat on the floor of the House what is being said by Indians that are in the know, who have been collaborators of the Honourable the Finance Member, when he replies to the debate, to tell us at what as the leader of the delegation, acquitted himself extremely well and it will be very difficult for anybody to feel that the cause of India has suffered because it was not represented by a national. But that is an accident. I would like the Honourable the Finance Member, when he replies to the debate, to tell us at what stage the whole matter now is. In fact, we did expect that considering that the House has evinced a lot of interest in this matter we should have a discussion on this subject. The question whether India is to be a member of the International Monetary Organisation and the International Bank, I think, has to be decided some time at the end of the year. Anyway, we expected that we would have a discussion, here during this Session, when the guidance of the Honourable the Finance Member, who was the leader of the delegation, was available to us but I am afraid we would probably not have that privilege but the fact nevertheless remains that barring what is revealed to us by the literature

that we have been supplied in regard to the Final Act of the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference we are not much wiser.

The next thing of great importance in the international field in which this country was not represented was the Dumbarton Oaks Conference and arising out of that conference and the meeting of the three great world leaders at Yalta, the House knows that the San Francisco Conference has been summoned. What the San Francisco Conference is going to do we do not know but I can guess from the literature supplied by the courtesy of the United States Office of War Information and what has appeared in the newspapers that this San Francisco Conference will probably be more or less laying the foundations for the bringing into being of another League of Nations. One very important function of this Conference ought to be very intriguing to the people of this country. It is that an economic and social council acting under the general authority of the Assembly suggested by the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, is to come into being and that is to be responsible for facilitating solutions of international, economic, social and other humanitarian problems regarding respect for human rights and the fundamental freedoms. Sir, this conference is going to decide on a matter which is of paramount interest to the people of this country who have been yearning for freedom for decades past. I am not going into the personnel that is going to represent this country but I do say that this is a matter in which we could have been told something more before the delegates go, so that they would know what the view of the country is. I would like to mention one particular matter relating to this issue to this House, though it might be known to many members. I would like to mention that the delegation chosen by the United States of America is intimately connected with the legislature of the country. It consists of two representatives from the Senate, two representatives from the Representative Assembly, one representing each party, one official, the Secretary of State, one former Secretary of State and Commander Stassen an ardent Republican and a lady. This represents more or less the whole set up of the political and economic structure of that country and the delegation consists of people who could speak on behalf of that country, who can go back to their legislature and say, 'we have done this and that on behalf of the United States of America'. There is no harm in anybody copying somebody else's example, where it is good even if it does not happen to be the example of Britain.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

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

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr. Deputy President, before the House adjourned for Lunch, I referred to the importance attached by U. S. A. to this San Francisco Conference. I would like to say, Sir, that much as we would, in this House, not feel perturbed by anything that this Government as it is at present constituted, does, we cannot escape from the logical effects of some actions of theirs, even though it should happen that there should be a government of the people of this country coming into being very shortly. Sir, the decisions of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, and the decisions at the Yalta Conference seem to indicate that the future international organisation of the world, which will in due time supplant the League of Nations and take over perhaps all its beneficent activities, will be composed of a Committee of eleven in which the five great powers will be permanent Members and the rest will be elected by the Council. There is some basis for this, for the reason that it is identical with the procedure that was followed at Bretton Woods. There the five powers were named by the assignment of quotas to the exclusion of India

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

which was relegated to the sixth position. The possibility is that the precedent that was established at Bretton Woods might again be invoked in the constitution of any world organisation and perhaps the San Francisco conference will take up the same view. It was stated that the reason that India lost its seat as a permanent Member of the proposed International Monetary Organisation at Bretton Woods was because of political influence, for the reason that India is a subordinate partner of the British Commonwealth of Nations but it was also said that that was not a very serious matter because India, by reason of the quota that it had been assigned can, without any difficulty, get elected to one of the remaining seats on the Executive. It is possible, Sir, that similar conditions may not exist in the matter of selection of the six representatives besides the five powers for a Council like the one contemplated at Yalta and at Dumbarton Oaks Conferences. Therefore, Sir, the San Francisco Conference has undoubtedly an important bearing so far as this country is concerned. The international status of this country has been more or less defined, the reason that she is entitled to a high place both because of her population, because of her natural resources, because of the predominant position that she occupies in Asia are all brushed aside because of the one and only reason that India is a subordinate partner of the British Commonwealth of Nations and hence cannot aspire to a position which will, so long as Britain controls India through the Secretary of State, be simply used as second vote to Britain. That is the most charitable construction that we can put on the reasons that have been adduced for relegating India to a subordinate place. It is in these circumstances, in view of the fact that this San Francisco Conference is just the precursor of several more conferences to come, in view of the fact that the decisions that will be taken in this conference might have a far reaching effect on the social, political and economic activities of this country that one tries, at any rate, to see that the Indian point of view is put forward there. Sir, I was not questioning the right of the Governor General in Council to select delegates; so long as the Government remains as it is, it is their undoubted right. As it was pointed out to me by a friend who has considerably more experience of public life and more knowledge of world affairs, "what is the use of you and I or somebody else in this House being linked as a sort of tail to this conference? What good we would do there except as providing a background for these official representatives". That is undoubtedly a point of view. But there is what is called an international convention, there is what is called an international law and arising out of these certain obligations are being foisted on certain countries, by reason of the fact that some Government which is in possession of that country decides for the country. The successor Government will have to go and prove before the bar of public opinion, before the bar of world opinion that the Government which preceded it was an illegitimate Government, that it had no reason to commit the country for any purpose and therefore that a popular Government would not be bound by commitments however sacred in the eyes of international law which have been entered into by a Government that was definitely illegitimate. That is our position today. It may be that the friends that go to this conference are well versed in the art of dealing with politicians and diplomats and statesmen on an international plane. They may be having considerable experience in this matter. But, Sir, the country cannot be convinced that they would represent the views of this country, that they would act in the best interests of the country. What is the position? The position, as I understand it, from what we heard from newspaper reports, since we have been denied the opportunity of hearing the Government side of this matter, is that these gentlemen will go to London and there will be a preliminary conference so as to ensure that there will be one view presented at San Francisco which will be the view of the United Kingdom Government. Can we blame the other powers in the world, if they turn round and say, so long as you are in this political position as a subordinate link attached to Britain, you cannot claim a permanent seat among world powers? Sir, logically by reason of the disappearance of Japan from the international field and ergo from its position of dominance which we all hope will ensue very soon, we are the natural successors of that leadership. It may

be that certain vested interests in the international field might boost China, but there is no denying that this country will ultimately take up natural leadership of Asia. But how this leadership is being represented at San Francisco conference, the House well knows. Sir, I have no intention of using harsh language, but Sir, those Indians who co-operate with the present Government, they might be called patriotic, they might be called eminent, they might be called wise, but so far as the people of this country are concerned, the people who co-operate with this Government particularly at a time when its beloved sons are behind prison bars are people who belong to the 'Sell India League'. These representatives are quite welcome to go to San Francisco, they are quite welcome to do what they like, they are quite welcome to sell the liberties of this country, but I think the majority of the Honourable Members in this House are behind me in voicing this opinion that India will not be committed by any decision that is arrived at at this San Francisco Conference. Sir, that is all that I have to say in regard to what I suggest are the positive measures which the Government might take in the international field so far as India is concerned.

Sir, I come next to a few matters relating to the Supply Department. I am sorry that the Honourable Member is not here, but I am afraid that that cannot preclude me from saying what I have to say, because I have a very serious charge to make. I have been very much exercised in my mind ever since I heard that this Department was going to undertake the erection and management of the Fertiliser plant at Sindri on the same basis as Ordnance factories. We have heard reports about the nature and the constitution of the Supply Department, a factor to which the present incumbent of the office of Supply Member may or may not be directly responsible. It might even be that he is not a party to a number of deeds of commission and omission on the part of his predecessors. But the fact remains that the position of this department as it is today merits investigation. One therefore would like to examine how far this Supply Department,—about which there are many whispers and many rumours, many facts which may be considered to be merely matters of hearsay because one cannot take action on them,—how far this Supply Department is a competent and proper department to undertake this big national task of providing fertilisers for this country in the shape of sulphate of ammonia. That is the genesis of my having to examine the organisation of the Supply Department. Sir, it has been said in this House on several previous occasions that the organisation of the Supply Department is one in which the country cannot have any confidence. It may be a just fear or it might be an unjust fear. But one has merely to glance through the telephone directory to find who are the Advisers and Directors and Controllers in this department. It happens that these worthy and estimable gentlemen, perhaps capable and perhaps also honest, have all been by and large recruited from business concerns in this country. And in order to be able to judge how the department which has been manned in this manner with a Civil Service Secretariat on the top could effectively run a factory I had to undertake some investigations. I must confess that to a very large extent I had to depend largely on hearsay and therefore I am unable to take the House into my confidence in regard to the result of those investigations. As a preliminary to what I wanted to do, I asked the Supply Member in an unstarred question to state:

"(a) the number of Directors, Controllers, Advisers and Honorary Advisers employed by the department who have been"—*I will ask the House to note this particular phrase*—"who have been or still continue to be associated with commercial and industrial undertakings in this country;

(b) if the Supply Member proposes to give a list showing the names of such officers or advisers, their duties, the firms with which they have been or are associated, and the remuneration they draw."

Sir, I have been furnished with an answer which says:

"There is one Director, two Controllers, one Adviser and eight Honorary Advisers who fall into this category."

And a statement has been given giving me twelve names of gentlemen who fall into this category. Sir, anybody who has any knowledge of the Supply Department, anybody who is conversant with the telephone directory will know

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

that this is false. It is an utter falsehood. And who is responsible for trying to mislead a Member of this House I do not know. Whether the Honourable Member has himself sighted it or he has not—because it is an unstarred question—I do not know. But I ask this House to enter its emphatic protest here and now against this treatment of the House on every such occasion with the scantiest courtesy and which is compelled to hear what I should in Johnsonian language term as the basest of terminological inexactitudes. I should like to tell the House, within the limited knowledge that I possess, who the other persons referred to in this answer are. I will read the names of these people:

Mr. Urquhart, Electrical Commissioner's organisation.

Mr. Spooner, Iron and Steel organisation.

These people belong to some firm or other.

Mr. Dobson, Coal Commissioner's organisation.

Mr. Gemmell, D. G. M. P. organisation.

Mr. Watt, Honorary Adviser on Woollen Industries.

Mr. Inskip (who happens to be a Member of this House), Honorary Adviser in Tanning.

Mr. Kennedy, Jute Adviser.

Mr. Quin, Honorary Adviser on Rope Supplies.

Mr. Brunt, Honorary Adviser on Petroleum Products.

Mr. Williamson, Honorary Adviser on Timber Supplies.

Mr. Thomas, Honorary Adviser on Webb equipment.

Sir, I have, with the telephone directory and the limited knowledge that I can conscript, got some more names here. I shall eliminate the Indian names because they are not material to the issue before us:

Mr. Ormerod is the Honorary Cement Adviser belonging to the A. C. C. whose name does not find a place here.

There is Mr. Pedderson who has some kind of association with a Cement Machinery Manufacturing Company.

There is a person called Mr. Coson—Ireland, who is Chief Progress Officer.

There is Brigadier Sassoon, belonging to Sassoon & Co., Calcutta.

Then W. J. Taffon, who belongs to the leather industry.

Then there is D. A. Randall, from Chrome Leather Company, Madras. He plays a very important part in keeping the price of leather in this country down.

Mr. A. J. Williams, who belongs to a very important concern, the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Ltd., which now has its tentacles spread all over the country in the Timber Trade.

• Mr. E. A. Oakley of General Motors, who is Director of Vehicles.

Mr. A. E. Hempson of Jenson and Nicholson, a big paint manufacturing firm of Bengal.

Mr. Crerar (I do not know where he comes from, but perhaps he has some association with some chemical firm) is the Chemical Controller.

Captain Murray is in the Petroleum Branch and belongs to Burma Shell Co.

J. P. Anderson of Dunlop Rubber Co. is Controller of Rubber.

P. Mitchell of Goodyear Co. is also in the Rubber Directorate.

Mr. Currie of a Bengal Paper Firm is Director of Paper.

And there is Sir Kenneth Nicholson in Calcutta, who is Chief Controller of Purchase, D. G. M. P. and all important members of the firm of Gladstone Wylie Ltd.

And I understand there are scores of names of persons similarly placed who are connected with this Department.

I cannot understand how any department of Government can have the check to furnish an Honourable Member of this House with a list like this, and since the Honourable Member is absent from the House we are unable to get any enlightenment on this. This proves the honesty of this Government and this proves the honesty of a department the head of which is going to represent this country at San Francisco. And, Sir, this is a department which obviously

in the very nature of its existence, is a self-liquidating department, which has no reason to exist after the end of the war, which is going to take the management of an important industry like artificial fertilisers.

Sir, the House will remember that some days back I asked the Honourable Member a question with regard to a factory that has been handed over to—I believe—the I. C. I. intended to manufacture stabilised bleaching powder. The factory does not work and the powder that was manufactured was, according to my information, of not much use. Whether it is of standard quality or not we have no need for it now. We do not know what amount was spent on it, and I do say, here and now that there must be a number of factories which are also not working in which the money of the people of this country has been sunk; and God only knows what is going to happen to these factories at the end of the war. Probably they will go into the disposal organisation and will be sold as scrap to some vested interest or other. I want to protest here and now against this alliance of the Supply Department with the one big vested interest in this country. I have read these names not without a purpose. I do not want my Honourable friends of the British group to quarrel with me over this, since our interests do not tally; I have no hesitation in saying that this department is playing into the hands of British vested interests in this country. And what confidence can we have if that department is going to run an important factory at Sindri, an industry which has a great bearing on the future economic position of this country, with the officers and the equipment that they now possess. Sir, I think if an investigation is made into the affairs of the Supply Department, we will find that the department works only by reason of the enormous pressure exerted on it by the Ordnance services. The moment that pressure is relaxed the Supply Department will just stop still and will not work, though its personnel will continue to draw salaries. The Honourable Member for Supply will of course get up and say, if any Member of this House asks him, that it does good work. It works because of the overpowering pressure that the Ordnance services exert on it; and can the House say and can the Honourable Member say in all honesty that the same pressure will continue to be exerted in regard to the Sindri factory? The very idea that the Secretariat of this organisation lends itself to such a gross lie and the very idea that the whole of the operative side of the Department is being manned by people who have a large stake in big business and vested interests of this country, whose names will not be revealed, I think makes us demand that if Government are going to undertake the manufacture of artificial fertilisers—I certainly agree with them that they ought to do it—let them hand it over to some department where the direction will be honest, where it will be conscientious, and where it will be in the best interests of this country.

Sir, I have done with the Supply Department.

I now propose to deal with the Food Department. I would like to tell my Honourable friend the Food Member that he need not be perturbed. I am not going to ask him for details of what he has done with regard to price control here, there and everywhere. I am merely going to ask him some questions with regard to one phase of the activities of the Department about which he is I believe singularly ignorant. My Honourable friend has a number of Regional Food Commissioners. They are all Nawabs.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): Not one of them.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am sure they are not Muslim Nawabs, but they are Hindu Nawabs, and the Hindu Nawab who imitates a Muslim Nawab is far worse than his Muslim prototype.

And these are all sort of autonomous sovereigns. The Central Government has no control over them at all. Has the Honourable Member ever called for the diary of any of these Regional Food Commissioners? Has he ever looked into what they are doing? It is no use shaking his head. Let the Honourable Member get up and say whether he has ever done that. I may tell the Honourable Members we have a Food Commissioner in my province of which perhaps he is unaware. He rarely is in Madras and when he is in Madras

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

he does not attend office. The destinies of the people who import or manufacture or obtain protective foods are entirely in his hands. I was given the other day an instance where a permit was applied for the sale of one brand of protective food—I do not propose to go into details of this case because I do not wish to ventilate in the House grievances of individual character—for which the owners wanted a permit to sell. Naturally the Regional Food Commissioner has to give that permit. The application was sent to him and fifty days elapsed; no action was taken; the Regional Food Commissioner was not in Madras; nobody could get at him; letters and telegrams sent to him proved of no avail; and this is how the Food organisation is being run, the organisation of which my Honourable friend is the head.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): He was attending to his own food!

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I think it is a farce that is being enacted by these Regional Food Commissioners. Let this organisation be handed over to the Provincial Governments, and let these matters be managed by the Provincial Governments. It is not that I am not for Central control, during times like this, but this kind of control is no use. I will ask the Honourable Member not to have personal representatives in each region like either Roosevelt, or Stalin or even Mr. Churchill, who it appears is also personally represented in this country. Do away with this system of personal representation of the Food Member and hand over the work done by them to the provincial administration, we could then at least go and sit *Dharma* outside their doors and get what we want done.

The next point I want to refer to in the matter of Food is far more serious. Sir, the Honourable Members of this House are in possession of, I dare say, the report of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee of the 31st July and 1st of August. I do not know whether they have perused it. Probably some of them won't have no inspiration to peruse it until the supplementary grants are brought before this House. On page 20 of the proceedings there is a proposal: "Memorandum regarding financial assistance to U. P. Government for subsidising sale of foodgrains at reduced prices." I will tell the House very briefly what it is. The price of wheat in the Punjab in September 1943 was Rs. 11-0-1 per maund at Lyallpur, and the price in the United Provinces was Rs. 13-12-0 per maund, and the Central Government wanted the price to be reduced. Why, they have not mentioned any reason, excepting that the Honourable Member wants a price uniformity. His statistics must reveal the reason of a price uniformity. The U. P. Provincial Government said, "Yes, we have got large stocks of wheat in our granaries, we will sustain heavy loss if we reduce the price of wheat, and so if the centre agrees we will levy a surcharge of Rs. 1-2-0 per maund on *gur* exported outside the province to make up the loss likely to be incurred". The Central Government said that it was contrary to the accepted policy that any Government should attempt to make a profit on exported foodgrains by imposing a surcharge on the actual cost of procurement. In order to get the United Provinces Government out of a very difficult position in which they will be placed by contravening an accepted policy of the Government of India, the Government of India were generous enough to offer them a subsidy on the basis of:

First Rs. 25 lakhs of loss—To be borne wholly by the Provincial Government.

Next Rs. 75 lakhs of loss—To be borne $\frac{2}{3}$ ths by the Provincial Government and $\frac{1}{3}$ th by the Central Government.

Beyond Rs. 1 crore of loss—To be borne half and half by the two Governments.

And the result of it is that 65 lakhs out of the Central Government's finances have been made over to the United Provinces, and the matter came before the Standing Finance Committee and the Committee by a majority approved the proposal.

If my Honourable friend wants to control prices all over the country, I agree with him. It is right that he ought to have Central control during war time particularly after the gruelling story that has been enacted in Bengal. Nothing is too much to surrender for that. But why does not he exercise that power? Is it because the Governor of the United Provinces is a person who will not heed to the advice of the Central Government that my Honourable friend came forward with this subsidy? I cannot really understand where the finance of this Government is going to end up.

Here I shall refer to another case relating to Bengal, but not to the matter of offering Bengal a cash subsidy. Bengal has been given a subsidy because it needed the assistance and Bengal was in a bad way. You give subsidy to a province which has a deficit economy and which is badly in need of it, but you do not give subsidy to a province which has a surplus Budget, which had four crores surplus last year. Where is the Central Government going to end up at this rate? Is this a financial transaction, or is it merely a matter of betting on a race course? I hold the Honourable Member in charge of the Food Department personally responsible for this transgression of all recognised financial canons, by paying blackmail in a matter in which he could have brought a refractory provincial administration to heel, otherwise under the powers conferred on the Governor General by section 126 A. of the Government of India Act which could have been invoked to deal with the Provincial Government in this matter if such a step became necessary.

My second charge against the Honourable Member is in regard to a question relating to Bengal. On the 2nd of February 1945 at the Standing Finance Committee meeting, I observe that an arrangement, not similar but in a different way that has been agreed to by the Government of India with the Bengal Government, was placed before the Committee for its approval. The Department which appears to have sponsored this matter was the Finance Department, but it was really a matter concerning the Food Department and the proceedings of the Committee which begins with the words, "It is in pursuance of the policy of the Food Department of the Government of India"—the policy is dictated by the Food Department and the Finance Department have been merely a sort of post office in the matter. I would like to tell the House that what happens is that in Bengal they have a large carry over of the stock of grains purchased in 1944, the condition of which the Government are afraid will deteriorate if stored much longer. I will tell the House how the stocks of paddy and rice stood on the 9th December 1944:

	Paddy	Rice
(1) Stock in physical possession	202,379	362,450 tons.

The second item is even more intriguing:

(2) Undelivered stocks (covered by contracts of purchase).	68,689 tons.	131,985 tons.
--	--------------	---------------

I can understand that if the Bengal Government had stocks in their possession and they felt that the stocks will deteriorate something must be done, but if contractors had stocks which they had not delivered, why should the Government be exercised by any fear that these stocks will deteriorate as well. In order that these stocks could be sold away at reduced prices the Central Government have come forward agreeing to adopt the same procedure followed in the case of the United Provinces, which is cited as a precedent in such matters. Something is done some time in August 1944 and that is approved by the Standing Finance Committee, and that is made a precedent to do something else in February 1945. Sir, I will ask the House to assess what is the total amount involved. If paddy is converted into rice at the rate of 3/5ths, the total amount involved is about 657,000 and odd tons of rice, which is equal to 1,77,41,000 maunds of rice. I understand that these stocks have been purchased at the rate of a little over Rs. 14 per maund and the present selling price is something in the neighbourhood of Rs. 10 per maund. So there will be a loss of about Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 per maund on 1,77,41,000 maunds, which

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

loss in the case of the United Provinces Government. If Bengal wants straight-forward assistance, so far as I am concerned, I shall not vote against it. The House has done so before. But why this camouflage? Why should this Government's finances be spent on stocks which are still undelivered, which somebody opines are likely to deteriorate or have deteriorated? This is the administration of which my Honourable friend, the Food Member, is the head. Apart from the question of the individual complaints that we receive from various provinces that the provinces are not adequately dealt with in the matter of foodgrains, here is a matter in which he is personally responsible and he has induced that most difficult of his colleagues in his Cabinet the Finance Member to agree to pay Rs. 65 lakhs to the United Provinces and commit the Government of India to something like Rs. 4 to 5 crores in the case of Bengal in a matter in which on the alleged facts the Government of India commitments will for quite a long time remain in the region of conjecture.

There are two provisos in regard to this agreement with the Bengal Government. Firstly, the arrangement is subject to the condition that the apparent financial loss in selling existing stocks at reduced prices should not be computed on the basis of stocks actually so sold but on the overall results of trading over a number of years. This implies that the Bengal Government must be trading for a number of years as otherwise the average mentioned here cannot be obtained. I can understand this particular type of condition in the matter of an agreement between the Government and a trading concern. If it is a matter of an agreement between the Food Department and one of its contractors, or if it is a matter of agreement in the Supply Department and one of its contractors, it is legitimate. But how does it happen in the matter of a Government which may not be trading tomorrow and how would this proviso come into operation if Bengal Government ceases trading in grain next year as perhaps they would.

The second proviso is that the Government of India's offer would apply only to losses in normal trading and not to losses which could be attributed to faulty purchasing and to the storing methods of the Provincial Government. Where is the machinery through which the Government of India will be in the position of verifying whether the loss is due to faulty purchase or bad storage. For the matter of that the Government of Bengal does not appear to be in a position to verify such facts. Even if the Government of India is in a position to verify whether the purchase has not been faulty and storage arrangements are satisfactory the agreement cannot be justified. But as things stands these two conditions are impossible of fulfilment. It is under such circumstances that this House is going to be asked to sanction amount which is unascertained and would remain unascertainable for quite some time and which might be anything between Rs. 4 and 5 crores. This is how the finances of this country are being dragooned into vice by the action of the Food Department and I do not know what my Honourable friend is going to say in explanation of this unsatisfactory position.

That next subject with which I shall deal cursorily happens to be import control. I have a lot to say in regard to manner in which import quotas are granted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have now spoken for over an hour.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I beg of the House to show me some more indulgence in the matter. What I have to say refers particularly in regard to the dye imports in this country. I have here tables showing the import figures over a period which indicate that while the country has got out of the clutches of one octopus, like the Imperial Chemical Industries on the one hand, on the other hand imports are again being canalised through other foreign agencies. I see that Volkart's, the National Aniline Dyes Company and Cibra a Swiss firm are being assigned 80 per cent. of the imports as against 9 per cent. allowed to the Indian importers. I can understand the Department's

partiality to the Imperial Chemical Industries. But I cannot understand the Department's partiality to refugee companies that have settled down in this country to the detriment of its own nationals.

The next matter in regard to this Department is in regard to this gazette notification which I have in my hand relating to Import Trade Control dated 2nd March 1945. It gives a long list of articles that can be imported from U. K. under an open general licence. I have had the handicap of being a business man who has had some experience of the import trade. I scanned this list and I wanted to find out if there was something which would benefit the people of this country, which would attract the surplus money that is in their hands and which would solve or mitigate in a very small way, though it might be, the problem of inflation. But I find no real relief possible from this list. The list of goods mentioned here starts with flashlight cases. The next item is brandy, gin and whisky and I find a number of other items equally unnecessary for sustaining the economy of the country. One of the items happens to be alkaloids of opium and their derivatives. I have a quarrel with the Honourable the Finance Member in this regard over which I am not going to dilate here at present. It is a fact that the Government of India possesses a factory in which it can manufacture alkaloids of opium and their derivatives. So it can provide facilities for Indian Pharmaceutical concerns to manufacture them in this country. Applications have been made to Government in this regard in previous years but they have refused them perhaps for some very valid reasons. But anyway encouragement is now provided for these being imported.

Then there are items like toilet requisites not otherwise specified, ribbons, secondhand clothing (that is going to solve our cloth problem), secondhand boots and shoes other than those containing rubber, and this is in spite of our British friends employed in the Supply Department who are helping to keep the price of leather just above 10 per cent. above prewar level and enabling the industry to supply leather goods cheap to the army. Another intriguing item in this list is a stuff known as "New Gold". How important it is to the consumer the Honourable must let us know.

These are the sorts of things that are being imported without any control, and they will be available to the people of this country and help to ease the problem of inflation. This is the precursor to what is going to happen when the Hydari Mission returns and tells us the story of the agreement arrived at with the U. K. Government and U. K. business houses.

I understood that an important commercial organisation met the Commerce Department some time back and gave them a long list of their grievances in regard to manipulation of import control and some promise was made to the deputation that the matter would be considered having in view the best interests of this country and this new gazette notification referred by me appears to be in reply to the complaints and grievances presented to the Government by the industrialists.

Sir, I am reminded of a similar set of circumstances which would provide a parallel to this which happened in Europe some time back. A young friend of mine who is an economist had written a brochure on Exchange Control in Germany as a Trade Strategy which I have with me here. He related what Germany did with her blocked currency in the prewar days and in the early years of the war. Germany bought wholesale stocks of Rumanian and Hungarian wheat and Yugoslav and Rumanian timber, Greek, Turkish and Bulgarian Tobacco. In order to liquidate these blocked credits it became necessary for these countries to purchase German goods in spite of their high prices and low utilities. Yugoslavia was compelled to buy large quantities of aspirin; Rumania had to buy large quantities of typewriting machines; and Greece and Turkey were forced to buy mouth organs. The only parallel that could be furnished to what is being done by the Commerce Department in this country is what was done by Germany with her blocked balances.

That takes me on to a matter which I want to mention very briefly because owing to a misdirected strategy on the part of a member of the House an

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

adjournment motion tabled in this House on this matter in the last Session had to be withdrawn and the opportunity for the House to discuss this important matter, denied to it. That was in regard to the Bombay explosions. I have with me here the first report of the Commission of Enquiry about the Bombay explosions. I understand from the Honourable Member's speech that the Government are going to pay compensation to people who have suffered and the Honourable Member has also indicated in a very veiled manner that there might be a hope of some relief in regard to the payments undertaken by this exchequer by a contribution by the United Kingdom Government. In fact, if the Government of India's resolution on this first report is carefully read, one would inevitably conclude that the United Kingdom Government will be very foolish to accept any responsibility for the Bombay explosion because the Government of India have generously whitewashed the responsibility of the representative of the United Kingdom War Transport Department at Karachi, who was mainly responsible for this disaster.

Sir, I think, in spite of the fact that I am occupying the time of the House, unduly it would be worthwhile for the House to know some details regarding this matter. On the examination of this individual, viz. the representative of the U. K. War Transport Department in Karachi it was revealed that Mr. Knott, Deputy Representative of the Ministry of War Transport Department in the United Kingdom, working as a partner in Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co. had a dual capacity placed on him and he says in answer to a question put to him by the Committee of Inquiry. "As the Ministry's representative I do not deal with the actual booking at all. That is left to the Agents, Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie". Somebody spoke about Jekyll and Hyde in a previous discussion in this House. Whether that was true or not, here was a case of Jekyll and Hyde working in actual practice. Mr. Knott is the representative of the Ministry of War Transport in the United Kingdom and the agent of Mackinnon Mackenzie, interested in booking freight by steamers for which his firm were agents. In fulfilling this dual function he has revealed that he did not even know or care to satisfy himself about the goods loaded in these steamers. As perhaps the House knows, this steamer "Fort Stikine" carried not merely T.N.T., but also cotton. It also carried timber, fish manure and a whole lot of other things and Mr. Knott has accepted responsibility for the loading of all these at Karachi for the reason that he did not know that these were all articles which will catch fire and could not be loaded with T.N.T. That isolated admission is enough to determine the responsibility in regard to the disaster at Bombay. Neither the War Transport Member nor the Honourable the Finance Member will take us into confidence and tell us what has been done in regard to this matter and here we have the Finance Member coolly stating that they were settling the matter in so far as the sufferers were concerned. And what does it matter if he takes money from one pocket and puts it into another, what does it matter—if he takes the money needed for this purpose from the War Risks Insurance Fund? We had better be content so long as the claims are paid. I do not think the country would be content.

I now come to my Honourable friend the Finance Member and his portfolio and in relation to this matter of the settlement of claims arising out of the Bombay explosion I have one point to urge. It is this. Granting that this matter of determining the responsibility and the question of what U. K. will have to pay if at all it has to pay are matters which have to be kept in suspense, why not have the amount paid out in settlement of claims be also kept in suspense and the matter left out until the United Kingdom accepts responsibility or denies it or pays some compensation or nothing at all?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Bad finance.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not quite sure. I will never say that my Honourable friend is capable of doing anything which would savour of bad finance unconsciously. He might do it deliberately. (Interruption.) That is the Honourable Member's business. I will tell him something more about this.

payment on suspense account. The amount as he has told us has been paid out of the war risks insurance fund. I think after the deduction of the amounts paid out in 1944-45 there is a sum to the tune of 40 crores in the war risks insurance fund and in the Explanatory Memorandum, page 30 on the Debt position of the Government of India, my Honourable friend, (or whoever happens to be the draftsman of this memoranda, whether it is my Honourable friend in the House from the Finance Department or any one else), says very coolly, after explaining the whole gamut of the financial transactions of the Government of India, how much we have got by loans how much we have got by taxation, what we have had to spend during the period of the war and what is the gap that is left out to be bridged, that the balance of 407 crores will be covered by the net balances resulting from other debt head transactions, such as the repayment of loans by Provinces, issue of rupee coins to the Reserve Bank, small coin profits, and war risks insurance fund, etc. So the cat is out of the bag. War risk insurance is another method of taxation which is going into the general revenues. I do not suggest that it ought to be repaid to the people who paid it out. It might remain a fund that is earmarked for a specific purpose of social utility. Anyway this Government of India is actually going to utilise anything that is available, anything it can lay its hand on in order to fill up the gap of 407 crores that has resulted from out of the War demands. This is best that the House knows the real position that is why I gave this subject priority in dealing with the Finance Department.

I do not want to detain the House longer but I will refer before closing to two or three matters which in my opinion and I take it in the opinion of the House also are very important and on which I hope my Honourable friend will be able to throw some light. I have heard of importation of silver under lease lend. Newspaper reports tell us that a matter of one hundred million ounces came from the United States of America. I have also heard of some other transactions between the Government of India and the Middle East Governments, whereby some silver was purchased by the Government of India. It may be right or it may not be. It is a matter of hearsay: the Honourable Member will either confirm it or deny it. I would like to know where does the question of lend lease silver come in. What is the position under which lend-lease silver is brought. Is it a matter in which we have to return to U.S.A. by way of an equivalent quantity of silver or by way of cost of silver ruling on a specified date? What is the price at which this is being sold to us? What is the cost at which we have brought it to this country and what is the price at which we are selling silver to the market? And where does the profit go to or is the whole amount covered by silver sales kept in suspense? So far as this Government is concerned, I felt, after going through these accounts, that one thing the Government was not afraid of is the keeping of suspense accounts. If they do not know where to put in a particular amount, they decide the issue simply by putting it in suspense account. I think it will be only right and proper if there is to be a committee of the House to examine the financial position, (other than that committee which takes up the *post-mortem* work, namely the Public Accounts Committee) and which would insist upon some kind of figures being furnished in regard to the amounts kept in suspense account by the Government of India. It would be interesting to know the aggregate total of the amounts kept in suspense, so that we will know where we stand. (Interruption.) My Honourable friend might say what does it matter when the fate of the country is kept in suspense but we have all been in suspense so long, we are still kept in suspense, God knows for how long, and if the Honourable the Supply Member's prophecy comes true, we might be kept in suspense for the next eighty years.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: You have quoted a perfect example of what should be a suspense account according to the strictest rules of accounting.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not the misfortune of succeeding my Honourable friend. I will remind my Honourable friend of a question that

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

I asked of him the other day when he spoke at the close of the Budget discussion. I asked in regard to mutual aid rendered to America, which is debited to the Defence estimates, as to what happened to the credit that he has received by lease-lend and he indicated to me that I might look into the Defence credits. I have looked into these figures. I find that the credits are comparatively small as compared with the enormous amounts that are given by this country by way of mutual aid. Arising out of this I would like to know what is the position in regard to this silver. Where is the reference to it to be found and what is he going to do about this silver ultimately: how is he or his successor going to repay it or give credit for it? Is it also going to be an arrangement by which the U.S.A. Government is immediately credited with the sale proceeds effected by the Reserve Bank, so that their needs in this country can be financed. All these questions arise and have to be answered satisfactorily before we can rest content that these financial transactions covered by the Budget have in them any element of reality.

Further on I come to another allied question, the matter of gold and silver sales. I wonder whether my Honourable friend had the time, at any rate, during the months of November and December to read that magazine, to which he assuredly must attach a great deal of importance, the *Economist* of London. If he had read the issue of November 4th and December 30th, 1944, he would have found interesting remarks made by the *Economist* in regard to the sales of gold and silver in Bombay. In its issue of November 4th, the *Economist* says that the sale of gold daily in Bombay was 30,000 to 50,000 tolas and the sales of silver 100 to 200 bars. It gives the prices at which these were sold and then says:

"These sales have been canalised through the Reserve Bank of India and are made on British and American Government account. They serve the dual purpose of mopping up inflation of rupee notes and of providing the British and American Governments with the rupees they require for their large expenditure in India. It has been suggested that the large offerings by the Reserve Bank are intended to keep pace with the continued increase in that expenditure."

The second item which is in the issue of the *Economist* of December 30th, dealt with the soaring bullion prices. It refers to Runstedt's offensive and the rocketing of bullion prices. "Despite official sales of gold amounting to 75,000 tolas daily and the offer of silver increased from 300 bars previously to 1000 bars", the prices have rocketed. Everybody else seems to know all that is happening in this country, excepting the people of this country, and specially excepting the Members of this House. Whatever might have been the reasons for keeping these gold and silver sales a secret hitherto, whatever security reasons existed to influence that decision I cannot, by any stretch of imagination, find any reasons to support a continuation of that attitude. Would my Honourable friend tell me exactly what are the specific reasons for keeping this a secret? The market has been going up and down, rocketing up and falling precipitously and nothing appears to have happened to the security of the country as a result and I do not think it is going to be affected if he now tells us clearly the position as regards gold and silver sales—how much of it has come from Britain, and how much of it from America, what profits these Governments have made out of it and what exactly this country has lost by way of national wealth by this profiteering in gold and silver which this Government has allowed Foreign Governments to indulge in.

Sir, one other matter, and I shall finish, and that is, dollar credit and the future of sterling balances. My Honourable friend took exception to my statement, and I do not dispute his claim that the analogy between India and Egypt was imperfect, though nevertheless it is there. Egypt, because of her comparatively independent position, has been able to bargain with Britain in regard to dollar facilities and in regard to facilities for the handling of hard currencies much better than India and the Indian Government could ever do.

I wonder if my Honourable friend has read all that is said about lease-lend exports to England in British and American magazines, and the present position of lend-lease arrangements under which England has agreed to obtain

during 1945 certain materials by lease-lend, though the total quantity is much less than what was supplied in 1944, but pay for certain other articles which she will be using for export purposes. Where does this payment come from? In fact, Mr. Shinwell, that very energetic member of the House of Commons, who is the self-appointed custodian of the Imperial interests, asked, I think, during a debate on this question: where is the cash going to come from and whether there is going to be a further depletion of Britain's low resources, or whether it will come from out of American purchase of goods? But wherever Britain may get this money from, it seems to be large enough for it to undertake an arrangement by which she will agree to pay cash for certain of her imports from U.S.A. which will be used for export purposes, and that being so, why should the Government of India be given this pittance of six crores of rupees every year for being hoarded up for the post-war needs of this country when legitimately she is entitled to much more. Will the Honourable Member give us a statement of the total amount of India's money which has gone into the dollar pool either from the dollar securities and dollar resources of this country which have been frozen or from the export surplus earned by India? It is said that it might be in region of 700 million dollars, we do not know what it is, why not tell us exactly what is the figure. Surely security reasons are not going to affect the giving of information on a matter like this.

My Honourable friend, speaking the other day on the motion of Mr. Tyson, said that civil expenditure has been inflated by reason of the heavy interest charges incurred on internal debt. I was very grateful to him for the information because he gave me an opportunity to bring an allied subject into this discussion. True, the interest charges are rising, and after allocating to the various commercial and semi-commercial departments it will be in the region of Rs. 30 or 31 crores next year. But what is my Honourable friend doing with the resources that he has in hand in order to make them earn and so off-set at any rate a portion of the interest paid by his Government in this country? Sir, we all know that the Reserve Bank holds large amounts of sterling securities, we all know that the Reserve Bank holds a large amount of foreign balances, but how are these held. We know that by law the sterling backing of our note issue has to be held in short-term loans and so they are held either as current deposits in the Bank of England or they are in the shape of Treasury Bills. My Honourable friend here said in his budget speech: notwithstanding the Governments' extremely good ways and means position, they still have to resort to marketing operations in order to keep the Treasury Bill market alive and to keep the money market in a stable condition. The fact remains that here is money available to Government on tap in the Treasury Bill market and why does he not take this estimated surplus of 286 crores according to the revised estimates for 1944-45 and ask the Reserve Bank to deface notes for a similar quantity and release in England in favour of the Indian Government this sum of Rs. 286 crores out of the sterling balances, and invest the sum in long term British securities which will yield an interest of at least 2 per cent. And why should not at the end of 1945-46 the estimated surplus of Rs. 5.21 crores be similarly used for this purpose. Action on these lines will be earning interest which will in some way go to diminish the Rs. 30 crores interest charges which this Government will be paying at the end this year. Will my Honourable friend answer why? I have a reason why he would not, that is a guess, but it is a good guess. It is but natural that my Honourable friend will not for the sake of earning a pittance of say ten crores on behalf of this country take this step, because the ways and means position of England will thereby be affected, the money market in England will be affected, the large amount which is kept on tap in the British Treasury Bill market will be withdrawn, and His Majesty's Government will not agree. That is my surmise. Otherwise I cannot understand how a shrewd financier like my Honourable friend will lose the chance of earning a few crores of rupees or say five or ten as the case may be for this country. The pressure comes from H.M.G. and the present position of sterling balances cannot be changed. I end up on the note that this budget—the whole economic policy of the Government of this

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

country—is adjusted to suit the needs of His Majesty's Government. We may very hoarse in this House, I may speak for another hour, but the position will be the same.

Before closing I would like to add my own words to the words of my friend the Honourable Sir Frederick James in regard to the Finance Member. This will be the last occasion we shall be referring to him when he is in this House, and speaking personally, during the short time I have been in this House, I have been able to see that the Finance Member merits every word which my Honourable friend Sir Frederick James has said about him. So far as I am concerned, if the present Government is to continue for another 80 years, as the Honourable Supply Member will have it, I will rather have Sir Jeremy Raisman as Finance Member than anybody else, and that is the highest tribute that an Indian could pay to a foreigner—I use the word 'foreigner' in its best sense—I hope he will benefit from the well-earned rest that he will get immediately, and that his future will be prosperous and that, when he is in that position, he will remember that notwithstanding the fact that this country might often times have occasion to remember the period during which he was the Finance Member, and all that have happened in this country by reason of circumstances over which he had no control, there are many in this country who feel that he has done his duty by India well and conscientiously.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Deputy President, although I am not quite uninterested in the high topics like international security and other questions in which the House is greatly interested, I shall restrict myself to the much neglected subject of the conditions under which the public servants belonging to the subordinate and inferior services have to work in this country under this Government. Although this subject is a much neglected one at the

4 P.M. hands of Members of the Assembly, I feel if the Members will consider this subject from the point of view of those people who are rendering faithful and good service to this country as public servants, they will realise that they should devote a little more of their attention also to this subject. When the conditions of employment of public servants in this country are considered, we find generally that those who are placed in high positions are given, as compared to the conditions under which the subordinate and inferior classes of Government employees have to work, very generous terms as regards the scales of salary, as regards the conditions under which they get leave, as regards the conditions under which pensions are given. I shall not go into the past history, because there is not much time for me; but you know that from the beginning the scales of salaries paid to the subordinate public servants and the inferior public servants were very meagre. But subordinate services and the inferior services began to feel the inadequacy to a much greater extent since the year 1930-31, when on account of the depression the Government of India reduced the scales of pay which were paid to the subordinate and inferior services on account of the fact that there was depression in those days. Now, this depression lasted for some time and again the prices began to rise and the cost of living began to go up. Still the Government of India did not take any steps to improve the conditions under which the public servants of the subordinate and inferior services were working. You know the cost of living in this country immediately after the war went up tremendously, and that high cost of living has continued for more than five years. When the depression started and the prices were lowered, say for two or three years, the Government of India immediately took steps to reduce the scales of salary; but when the prices have kept on rising and have risen for five years, the Government of India has not moved and is not moving now to raise the salaries of those people whose salaries should have been raised much earlier. These members belonging to the subordinate services have suffered a great deal. A large number of them are getting what I may call sub-standard living: they do not get sufficient to maintain themselves and their families. Some of them may be just above the ordinary minimum scale of life. But still the Government of India is not paying attention to the conditions under which these people are working under the present circumstances.

The result is that there is discontent in the subordinate ranks of the public servants, as well as in the personnel of the inferior services. Not only there is discontent in the minds of those people, but I have no doubt that the Members of this Assembly and even the Members on the Government benches will admit that the efficiency of service has suffered on account of the fact that those who are to do the work of our various departments are not only not contented but do not get enough for meeting the needs of their ordinary life. The Government of India, if they know how the work of their various departments is going on, will not deny the fact that there is inefficiency in their departments. I know by my own experience that when I receive letters from the departments with which I am connected, even the addresses are not now properly written, because the salaries which the Government of India is paying at present to new entrants who generally write these addresses are not such as to attract ordinarily efficient clerks. When Government found that they could not get people on the low salaries which they were paying they raised the initial salary of the clerks; but this very raising the salaries of a few people in some departments has created greater discontent in the general ranks of these subordinate services. Not only that: at present the Government of India keeps a large number of the new entrants on a temporary basis: some have been working as temporary employees of the Government of India for five years, some are working for four years, some for three years, and they do not enjoy the same leave rules which they would have enjoyed if they had been made permanent. We are told that these new entrants could not be made permanent because some of these jobs are reserved for those people who are rendering war service. I have no objection to some posts being reserved for those who have gone on war service; but at the same time it is our business to see that those people who are doing the work of the various departments have certain rights and their interests must be considered by those who employ them. I therefore feel that in the matter of leave rules and such other matters, even these temporary people deserve better attention at the hands of the Government of India.

Then, we are employing a large number of people on a temporary basis. Their number can be counted by thousands: one of my colleagues the other day said that he found 15,000 people on a temporary basis in the book of Demands which is supplied to us. The number may be much larger; and to my regret I found that the Honourable Home Member replied that the Government of India have no plan as to the future of these people who are working on a temporary basis. That is the reply which he gave at that time. It is possible that since that time he has been thinking that he was not quite right in saying that it is not his duty to think of the future of those people who are rendering service to the Government of India and to the public in India on a temporary basis. I suggest to the Government of India now that as the cost of living has remained high for more than five years, it is time for them to restore at least the old scales of pay; there is a great deal of discontent and if you want your public work to be done honestly and well, the sooner you either restore the old scales of pay or, if you are generous enough, revise the scales of pay for all ranks of people, the better. I may inform the Government of India, if they do not know it, that some of the Provincial Governments, such as the Madras Government, have begun to take steps in this direction. The Provincial Governments have begun to feel that they cannot get proper men to do their work unless the scales of pay are revised and I suggest to the Government of India to take immediate steps for revising the scales of pay of the persons who are working for us in our subordinate and inferior services.

Then, the Government of India, it is true, began to pay some kind of dearness allowance since 1942, if I remember aright, but the cost of living had begun to rise from the beginning of the war and the Government of India took, I think, 18 months before they paid any kind of dearness allowance and when they began to pay dearness allowance they paid it in a very niggardly manner. In 1941, I think the Government of India appointed a committee called the Rau Committee to consider the question of the dearness allowance to be paid to the railway

[Mr. N. M. Joshi]

employees. The Rau Committee laid down certain scales of dearness allowance which should be paid to Government employees. It is true that that committee considered the question of only the Railway employees but certainly what was needed for the railway employees was also needed for the employees of the other departments. Unfortunately, Sir, the policy of the Government of India as regards the payment of the dearness allowance is niggardly and I would therefore suggest to them to change that policy and adopt a policy which, if not generous, will be a fair one. After the Rau Committee, the Government of India in the Labour Department appointed a committee to consider the question of the dearness allowance, over which the Economic Adviser to the Government of India presided. The Committee's report is not yet published, although it was made I think about a year ago. I do not know why the report is not published. But I have a shrewd suspicion that that report which was made by an economist who is not on the Government front Benches must have recommended at least to do some justice to the employees of the Government of India, at least the people who are paid the lowest wages and lowest salaries. It is admitted that people who are not given enough to eat and clothe themselves should not be asked to make sacrifices even for this war. My suspicion is that the Gregory Committee Report may have recommended that people who get the smallest wages like those people who are getting Rs. 30 a month should not be asked to make any sacrifices on account of the rise in the cost of living. They may have recommended that they should be compensated for the rise in the cost of living. The Honourable the Finance Member and also his other colleagues in the other departments perhaps found that that recommendation was inconvenient and therefore that report was not published. I would suggest to the Government of India that whatever they may do with their public servants, let them at least publish that report so that the world will know what an economist like Sir Theodore Gregory thought about the dearness allowance which the Government of India was paying. Sir, the dearness allowance paid by the Government of India is very meagre. They generally pay, say, Rs. 8 or 9 to Rs. 18 except to those people who may be getting more salary, in whose case it is 10 per cent of the salary. The rise in the cost of living is not met adequately. People who are interested have made some calculations and the postmen in Bombay have prepared a table showing how much of the cost of living has been compensated for and they calculate at the present rate of dearness allowance paid in the case of people who get upto Rs. 30, 36 per cent of the rise in the cost of living has been compensated. In the case of people who get between 30 and 39, 27 per cent of the rise in the cost of living is compensated and curiously enough in the case of people who get more than Rs. 39, upto 50, 34 per cent of the rise in the cost of living is compensated. People who are getting less, say, between 30 and 39, get only 27 per cent of the rise in the cost of living compensated. I suggest to the Government of India to give up this policy and adopt a more generous and fairer policy. Let them decide which class of people should not be asked to make any sacrifices on account of the rise in the cost of living. I suggest to them let them choose a figure, Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 and see that people getting at least below that sum should get full compensation for the rise in the cost of living. It is difficult to say what is exactly a fair standard of living wage. In Bombay, a committee was appointed called the Divatia Committee and that Committee came to the conclusion that for the city of Bombay before the war, Rs. 50 or Rs. 55 were necessary for a sort of minimum living wage. Now, of course, Rs. 50 or 55 will not be enough because the cost of living has gone up. The cost of living index is at present 240. Let the Government of India take that standard in Bombay before the war when at least Rs. 50 or 55 were required or a minimum living standard and let the Government of India add what is necessary on account of the rise in the cost of living and give an allowance based on that standard.

Sir, I shall not speak about the dearness allowance any more. It was mentioned the other day that the Government of India, unfortunately treats their employees in different departments differently on account of the fact that people in some departments are strong enough to agitate and therefore Government is

compelled to give them more. Sir, I would suggest to the Government of India that in the case of some people who are not strong enough, who are not well organised to agitate and to compel them to give them what is due to them, they should voluntarily offer to them what they were compelled to offer to others. Sir, it is true that although the railwaymen, and to some extent the postmen get a little more than the people in other Departments by way of various allowances, it is not because the Government of India was weak enough, but because in the case of railwaymen a Committee was appointed and the Government was ashamed to pay much lower than they agreed at that time to pay. That is the real reason. I would suggest to the Government of India to do justice to all their employees.

I would like to say one word about the men in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. These people are also very much discontented and they are asking for revision of salaries and better dearness allowance. Sir, in this connection, I would like to draw attention to the somewhat contradictory attitude of the Government of India. There was a time when the Government of India was reducing the scales of pay and the argument used for paying the postal employees less than other departments was that the Postal Department was a commercial Department, that the Postal Department can only pay and spend monies for salaries according to their income. That was the argument used at that time for paying the clerks in the Postal Department much less than the clerks in the other Departments. Now, Sir, circumstances have changed. The Postal Department is making a profit of ten crores a year. I would suggest to the Government of India to remember the slogan which they used in paying the postal employees less than the employees in other departments and do justice to the employees of the Postal Department. If there is discontent, in other departments, perhaps the public may not feel that discontent. But if the postal service is discontented, it is not only your Departments will feel, but the ordinary public will feel it. If any differentiation is to be made between the clerks working in the Postal Department and those working in other Departments, I would certainly make a discrimination in favour of employees of the post office because they come in contact with the public and for that very reason they require greater ability than the clerks in other departments. Then, Sir, in the post office, the work has increased on account of war, but still the Government of India have not increased the staff to that extent. I would suggest to the Government of India to do justice to their employees in these departments.

Then, Sir, there is a small point which I should like to make regarding the rules of pension for inferior servants. On the whole the rules of pension given by the Government of India to their employees are not bad. I would say they are even generous, but the inferior class of Government employees are still denied the full enjoyment of the rules which are applied to the subordinate and also higher services. The inferior servants are not allowed the pension under the same rules under which the subordinate employees are paid.

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

Sir, these pension rules were revised some years ago by the predecessor of the Honourable the Finance Member and to a very slight extent by the present Finance Member also. But still there is discrimination made between inferior servants and servants belonging to the subordinate and higher services. I should like the Honourable the Finance Member and the Government of India to revise these pension rules and give to the servants of the inferior services half the salary as pension as is given to other services.

Sir, I have spoken about the employees of the various Departments. But the Government of India is not only an employer of these subordinate and inferior services in their Departments, but the Government of India maintain some factories also. I would also like the Government of India to enquire into the conditions under which the employees who are working in Government factories have to work. Sir, the Government of India has a duty to be a sort of example, a model for the employers in this country to follow. The Government of India

[Mr. N. M. Joshi]

cannot give to their employees in these factories conditions which are not even as good as conditions given to any private factories. Sir, the Government of India maintains a large number of Ordnance factories. The employees who are working in these ordnance factories are certainly doing a very important work, but unfortunately the grievances of the employees of the ordnance factories are not properly looked into. I received a few days ago a memorandum from the employees of an ordnance factory, the Cordite factory in Aravankadu. The wages paid in that factory are extremely low if we consider the general level of wages in other parts of the country. Men and women are paid six annas a day; in the case of men, after some service, they are paid a little more, but women have to work on six annas a day for years together. I would like the Government of India to consider whether it is a proper wage to be paid to their employees. The other conditions given to the employees of these ordnance factories are not satisfactory and I would very much like the Government of India to enquire into this question.

I have also received complaints from the employees of the Government of India presses, both in Delhi as well as in Calcutta. These people have got a large number of grievances including grievances as regards scales of salaries and scales of dearness allowance. It is not right for the Government of India to treat their employees unfairly. I would like the Government of India to give their employees a treatment much better than that given by ordinary employers.

Sir, I shall not speak any longer about the employees of the Government of India. But I shall only make a few remarks regarding labour in general. Sir, I have spoken on this subject on my cut motion and I had suggested to the Honourable Labour Member that he should take early steps to give compensation to those workers who suffer from unemployment due to shortage of coal and other materials. I would like the Government of India to take immediate steps to see that compensation will be paid. I mentioned in my previous speech that the Government of India have issued rules regarding compensation to be paid. But they have not taken steps to see that the rules will be enforced. I therefore suggest to the Government of India to pass an ordinance applying these rules to all factories and other industrial undertakings and see that the rules are enforced. Then, Sir, the House has very recently given a mandate to the Government of India that employment of women underground should be stopped. Sir, the Honourable the Labour Member this morning stated that the vote of the House was due to political motives. I do not understand, Sir, what he meant. If by politics we mean that the House wanted good conditions of work and save these women from dangerous work in mines, then certainly our object was political. If by political, we mean looking after the welfare of the common people in this country then certainly the object was political and there is no shame in that. I do not know what according to the Government of India is politics. Do they not include welfare of the poorest class of workers in this country in their politics? If the Government of India tell me that in their politics the common people of the country are not included but that their politics is intended for only those classes of people from whom the Members of the Government of India are drawn, then let me tell them that their interpretation of the word "politics" and my interpretation are different. My politics is that politics which concerns the life of the poorest people in this country; and therefore when this House gave a mandate to the Government of India to stop the employment of women underground, I think this House was following the right kind of politics and the House set an example of what good politics is, to the Government of India.

Then, Sir, I had suggested to the Government of India that they should have a separate Labour Ministry. The question of social security is becoming very important and very urgent too; and if that problem is to be properly solved there must be a separate Labour Ministry with a properly equipped staff. I would therefore suggest that the Labour Member should be divested of his duties

of managing other departments and he should be free to give his whole attention to the questions of labour in which, I have no doubt, he is very much interested. Let him also be given sufficient staff. I have already said that I am not a believer in retrenchment in proper expenditure. Let the Labour Member be given full staff to make a plan for establishing social security for the progress of this country.

Lastly, Sir, I shall refer to this question of the mining industry. Coal mining is a key industry. If we do not produce sufficient coal our industries will suffer and our workers will suffer. And therefore I have been suggesting, in the remarks which I made on different subjects, that coal mining is one industry which the Government of India should take in its own hands. They cannot afford to leave this key industry into the hands of private capitalists who are not interested in the production but are only interested in making money.

I would also suggest to the Government of India that they should not only take the coal industry in their hands for management, but in order to be able to do it well there should be an independent Member of the Executive Council to manage coal mining. In England mining and production of coal is considered so important that there is an independent Minister for mining. Similarly the Government of India should have an independent Minister for coal mining. The present arrangement of the Supply Member—who is already overworked—being also the Member for coal mining is wrong. And the sooner the Government of India change it the better for the interests of this country.

Sir, I have no desire to detain the House any longer. I thank you and the Deputy President for giving me this early opportunity of stating my views on these subjects.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore; Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it seems to have become a social convention on the part of some Members to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member and also to console him because he is obliged to lay down the charge of his department and go to England. I for one cannot think of congratulating him or expressing my gratitude. It is true that I am quite prepared to wish him bon voyage. I am also quite prepared to wish him a very happy time in his own country. I am also, if I can venture to say something on behalf of England and the English people, quite prepared to permit myself to an expression of satisfaction that he has served the British people and Great Britain quite ably and successfully. It is quite possible that the Honourable Member has been trying to do his work in a conscientious manner. But I am afraid that all his conscientious work has only benefited the British people and those who are behind them and has not benefited the people of this country.

Sir, I am perfectly satisfied that I do not detract from the essential merits of the gentleman opposite when I say that this country has absolutely no reason whatsoever to feel grateful for his stewardship of the finances of this country. On the other hand it is but right, and it is not as a matter of mere parliamentary convention that I say so, that during his six years of stewardship of the finances of this country the country has grown much poorer and much more unhappy than she had ever been before. That does not mean that the Honourable Member has consciously tried to make India what she is today,—poor, starved, half-naked, unhappy, burdened in every possible manner and feeling thoroughly miserable and dissatisfied. I only mean that he is a sort of cog in the wheel of British imperialism: he is only an implement in this great imperialist machine which has been functioning in this country, in order to benefit the British people.

Sir, I wish to refer to the miseries of this country caused by inflation which my Honourable friend has been obliged to inflict on this country, not because he was vicious but because he had no other go, being as he was an agent of British imperialism. I wish to challenge any financier in the world to prove how inflation can be avoided in a colonial country during war time. You can finance war either by taxes, or by raising loans or by inflation. My Honourable friend has tried both loans and taxes, and in both these directions he has inflicted great damage upon the economy of our country.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

When I take up the question of taxes I find that the Honourable Member has departed from the precedents of his own predecessors by becoming suddenly enthusiastic about what he is pleased to call commodity taxes. This is a very strange thing indeed. There was an Honourable Member of this House who was suggesting that there should be another Taxation Inquiry Committee. There had been a Taxation Inquiry Committee in this country and it deplored the regressive character of our taxation system and recommended that the earliest and earnest steps should be taken by the Government, Central as well as provincial, to change this regressive character of our own taxation system and to increase the income that the State should get from direct taxes. On the other hand the Honourable Member here comes forward and says that future India will come to depend more and more on commodity taxes. And may I ask, why? He has no other justification except that future India will be in need of more tax revenue. And if more tax revenues are needed, I wish to suggest that the proper thing for any popular and people's Finance Member to do is to make the rich people pay and not to make the poor people pay. But on the other hand my Honourable friend has made our poor people pay, bleeding almost to their uttermost. Sir, the revenue that the Finance Member has drawn from these commodity taxes has grown enormously. At one time customs and excise revenues both together accounted for only 46 crores, in 1930-31. Now it is 55 crores and 25 lakhs so far as customs goes, and 48 crores and 59 lakhs as per this year's budget.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: And how much has direct taxation grown at the same time?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am coming to that also.

They were getting from both these sources 46 crores in 1930-31, and in this budget he wants to get more than that from commodity taxes alone, and that is 48 crores and 59 lakhs. My Honourable friend puts a question, and a very interesting question it is, that the rich people are paying from their excess profits. How much they are paying? He wants me to refer to that item. If we go into it in greater detail we find that the corporation tax has given 77 crores of excess profit tax and to the so-called income-tax 20 crores, i.e. about 100 crores of rupees. Who pays this 100 crores of rupees. I want to know? How does he make his estimate when he tries to collect this excess profit tax? He makes provision for normal profits for the industry for a particular period of years. Then he makes provision also for scientific research, he gives exemption for their wear and tear, for a sinking fund, and so on. He also tries to make various concessions—quite rightly, I dare say—to the industry, so that it will be able to rehabilitate itself and find itself at least in no worse condition after the war than it was before the war. All these concessions he makes, then he introduces excess profits tax. I can only say that this can only come not from any cost of production or anything, or even from ordinary wages of capital, but it can only come from the consumers, and that means again a kind of commodity tax. My Honourable friend, his colleague, the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, was claiming credit for the fact that he has brought down the prices of cotton goods from the peak figure in 1943 by 75 per cent. What is the secret of it? You allow these prices to go up and make the consumers pay. When they pay, the money goes to the manufacturers, and then you collect it from them and you call it excess profits tax, and you want this House to be deceived into feeling that all this money is being paid by the rich people. Certainly not. It is being paid by the consumers of cloth and other manufactured commodities.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: What other sources?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My Honourable friend can very well go to the economists of London and there express his views,—“What can I do? Do not believe what the people on the opposite side have been saying. My trouble is the Bombay merchants, Ahmedabad merchants, Sholapur merchants—capitalists”.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: And with Professor Ranga.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I know.

Therefore I have done what I possibly could under the emergent circumstance.

If my Honourable friend will give me permission to accompany him to England on my own and to express my views, I will not be surprised if that would be his apology that he would be offering to his own colleagues on the other side.

Therefore, Sir, nearly 188 crores of rupees are being contributed to the Central Funds by the masses themselves and a little less than Rs. 110 crores are being contributed by the rich. Thus the Honourable Member has allowed the rich people to bear much less of the share than the poor people.

Coming to the question of loans, what has he done? He says, "I have congratulated the Governors for this drive." The House has already had a full dress debate on that question, so I will not dilate on this point for very long. But from whom has this money been drawn? From some of the poor people, from poor peasants. Any amount of evidence was given on the floor of the House to prove this. I need not go into details, but the fact remains that these were forced loans, large portions of these loans have been forced loans and they have been drained away from the masses, ordinary people who really cannot afford to contribute any money towards these loans but who required that money very badly for domestic purposes in order to pull through these hard times.

Then, there is inflation. He could not but resort to it. He had no other way open to him because he had to purchase so many things in this country on the account of England, on the account of America, and on the account of so many other increasing number of their Allies. Whether we needed those goods or not, he had to purchase them on the account of these people. Did this Government have any sort of freedom about it, whether they could or could not purchase these things? No, they were to purchase. And with what they were to pay? Rupees. And in return did we get gold, silver or machine goods, or did we get even these consumer goods? No, we were given sterling securities. And what are these sterling securities? Dues which could not be paid, and they have accumulated those. It comes to more than two-thousand crores of rupees. My Honourable friend comes to this House and wants this country and the House to be grateful to him that he has come to some sort of wonderful financial agreement with the British Government. What else could he have done? My Honourable friend is an honest man and he went to England like a British babe going to his own mother. He must have told his people there, "you want me to buy this and to buy that but you don't pay for it; my dear fellows, unless you pay those people at least in paper currency you cannot expect me to purchase for this country and place it at your disposal, therefore it is the best agreement for you; this is beautiful; all that we have got to do is to give an I. O. U." So that I. O. U. they have given us and they have drained away our resources; they have drained away our life-blood to the tune of nearly two-thousand crores of rupees, if not more. What else could they do except to flood this country with paper currency? Old one rupee coins were withdrawn because there was more silver content in it; people had to part with those coins and accept paper currency. If people did not accept them, they were liable to go to jail. And my Honourable friend wants this country to congratulate him. He says, "True, there is inflation. I am as sorry as yourself. Therefore co-operate with me in countering inflation. Your pocket is bulging, give those rupees to me, I shall make use of them—very good use of them, and at the end of the war when your own Government comes—whatever its name may be—it will pay you, it has got to render accounts to you, it is not my funeral, it will be their funeral." And then the Honourable Member wants us to congratulate him. Even these notes he wants to withdraw. When we refuse to allow ourselves to be robbed in this manner, he asks his friend the Honourable the Home Member to let loose his dreadful dogs to create trouble, to put our people into jails, to give them warning and put them in as detenus,

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

and all the rest of it. This is the sort of financial jugglery that this gentleman has carried on in this country.

Then I come to the other thing. Could he have avoided this inflation? He said I am going to. At question time we were asking the Honourable Member whether it is not true that our commodities are being sold at too cheap a price abroad. The Supply Member answered: 'Oh, we are supplying raw materials at too cheap a price but we are giving them so many facilities. Therefore we have a right to ask them to sell their commodities at concessional rates. But we cannot make a differentiation between what we want and what we have to give to our Allied Governments. Is this price priority? Not so. Here is a sort of cooked evidence all their own. I rather underestimate it. Here is the information by Sir Theodore Gregory, brought by the other "Grigg".

Our food prices are kept at 277.6 per cent. That is the index figure. Primary commodities are at 259 and manufactured goods at 258.4. My Honourable friend sells all our goods at 250. What does that mean? Our business must live. Our manufacturers have to manufacture goods and give them to the wholesalers at 250 per cent. But my Honourable friend captures our raw materials and the manufactured goods and sells them to the Allied Governments at 250 per cent. Is not this loot? He has been selling our goods too cheaply. For whose benefit? If it was for the benefit of the English I could understand. But it is for the benefit of the Americans. At the cost of whom? At the expense of the poor, and people ask me to be grateful to this gentleman. I cannot be grateful to him.

Then I come to the stabilisation of prices. He is keeping down our prices. Whose? Not the price of manufactured goods but the price of the primary commodities being produced by millions and millions of people in this country. There was my friend, Mr. Joshi. He was pleading for the masses of this country. I agree with him. But for how many do they count? Not more than five millions. For the sake of those five millions you have a Labour Minister and he says that the Labour Minister ought not to be burdened with other responsibilities. But for the sake of our three hundred millions what Minister have you? You have a Secretary standing up for three departments and not able to do anything for those people. What do I mean by stabilisation of prices? Do I mean to keep them down to uneconomical levels. No. But do what you have done in regard to the millowners and their people. Treat these poor peasants in the same way. These millowners have money, the press, and also many of you in their pockets by friendship and relationship. You do justice to them. You are not prepared to do justice to my people. My Honourable friend, the Food Member, wants more and more power to be given to him. For what purpose? So that he could go and sit on the top of the Punjab Ministry and push down their prices. But you are not satisfied. Wherever I go your officers say that the Punjab Government is greedy. Is that so? A friend told me that there was a peasant who was shedding tears at his harvest field after he had sold away his grain. Throughout the year he laboured hard with the help of his wife and children and his starving cattle. Then he sold his harvest. But there was the money-lender. There was the jagirdar and there was the tax collector. After these were paid there was your unofficial agent with his saving certificate. And what was left? Eleven annas. And his sons were grumbling. Those were the conditions now. My Honourable friend said we sent one honourable Butler. It seems to me that you Government officers seem to have a genius to study everything upside down.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Perfect description of yourself!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I say everything upside down because you see everything upside down. You see England and I see India. We are poles apart, my friend Sir Jeremy Raisman.

Is it true that our peasants are becoming more prosperous? They have a few rupees now to pay taxes. Why? Not because of our surplus profits and

income but because we have now at least become commonsense-wallahs and we are selling portions of our land at a higher price to get rid of these money-lenders for ever. That is how these land mortgage banks monies are being returned. You want to be jealous of our people because they have a few useless paper notes in their pockets. But look at all these things in a relative manner. So far as these notes are concerned, your town people, your merchants, your traders, your wholesalers, your Supply Department agents are in a better position. And what is the worth of your notes? If to a townsman each rupee is worth three annas, to a villager it is worth only two annas. You may say the villager need not have to go and purchase grain and therefore his position is better. Not so. He wants these commodities. You have destroyed his earlier self-sufficiency economy. You have made him a victim to various things that can be satisfied only by your towns. Now he finds himself helpless. There was a time when a peasant did not know kerosene because he depended upon castor oil. But today he does not even know how to grow castor seed and manufacture castor oil. Therefore he depends on kerosene. But now we cannot get that kerosene and our peasants are suffering. You also destroyed our handicrafts by your mills. But these mills are unable to supply cloth and our people die in nakedness and shame. In towns you have shops and rationing. But in the villages, have you done anything at all? My Honourable friend says I am not responsible. If this Honourable Member, who is responsible for all these departments together, because he holds the purse strings, is not responsible then who is?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now five o'clock. The Honourable Member can continue his speech the next day.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 19th March, 1945.