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OF THE

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 25th March, 1946

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

STOPPING OF SALE OF RAILWAY TICKETS FOR CERTAIN STATIONS

1187. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- (a) If it is a fact that Provincial Governments have been issuing orders stopping the sale of tickets to particular stations for particular periods of time;
- (b) the law under which they acted, and if the Railway Administration was bound to obey those orders;
- (c) if Booking Clerks did not refuse tickets even when such orders were not in force saying that there were such orders; and
- (d) if Government propose to ask all Railway Administrations to hang up notices outside their Booking Offices showing the dates on which the issue of tickets to particular stations was stopped?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. Provincial Governments have issued Prohibitory Orders disallowing travel by rail of pilgrims to certain important *melas* and fairs. These orders do not restrict travel by rail of any person who is not a pilgrim and is proceeding on his normal affairs.

(b) Prohibitory Orders are issued under the powers conferred on Provincial Governments under Clause (a), Section (1) of Rule 85-B of the Defence of India Rules, and Railway Administrations are bound to obey these orders.

(c) I understand that no such cases have come to the notice of Railway Administrations.

(d) I am informed that majority of railways already follow this practice and other railways will be asked to do the same.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of the question, may I know how he expects booking clerks and other railway officials to distinguish a pilgrim from a non-pilgrim when one asks for a ticket at the railway station?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is not easy but in certain circumstances to ensure people travelling it is possible for them to get an authority from a district magistrate.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member sure that there was no hanky-panky in this business?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One cannot be sure of that but the railway authorities do their best to see that justice is done.

Shri Sri Prakasa: The railway authorities did not do their best in such matters and they did stop *bona fide* passengers and very often facilitated pilgrims to travel. I am surprised that the Honourable Member is not aware of such cases.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If any definite evidence is produced I shall be very glad to take action.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not strange that when a complaint of this kind is made the Honourable Member and his colleagues come out and ask for specific complaints and when there are complaints against us without any specific instances being adduced, we are shut up in one day?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is not at all strange. Obviously the Railway Administration cannot take action on general complaints but if specific complaints are made they will certainly look into them.

Shri Sri Prakasa: At what stage will these specific complaints be made? Will it be before or after the train has left?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Either.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly tell me if there is any moral or legal objection to the railway administration following the suggestion contained in part (d) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already said that the majority of railways already follow this practice and other railways will be asked to do the same.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know whether the Honourable Member is aware that at none of the booking offices which I have dealt with—and I have dealt with quite a lot of them—have I seen any such notice; and tickets have been refused even to me.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Perhaps that particular railway has not followed the practice.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly enquire whether on the E. I. and O. T. railway stations,—the two railways that honour my town by serving it—this practice is being followed and if any notice was hung at the Benares Cantonment Railway station, for example?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: All railways have been asked to do it. I will however endeavour to see that they pay particular attention to the stations which my Honourable friend habitually uses.

ENHANCED MILEAGE FOR BREAKING JOURNEY ON RAILWAYS

1188. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that no break of journey is now permitted on Railways till at least 250 miles have actually been travelled, while formerly passengers could break journey if they held tickets for 100 miles and over, for one day every 100 miles even before travelling the first 100 miles; and

(b) if Government propose to ask the Railway Administrations to re-introduce the old system?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) No. The facility granted for breaking journey is a concession which is not allowed in many other countries. Consideration at one time was given to cancelling this concession altogether but it was later decided to retain it with an increased distance limit to reduce the opportunity for fraud. It is not considered that the revised rulings will cause any serious hardship to the travelling public.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly explain why is it now that he insists on a person travelling 250 miles before he can break his journey, even if he holds a ticket for more than 250 miles.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The reason for the alteration, which has been made after considerable discussion, was that large scale misuse of the privilege was reported by certain police authorities.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: How is it that the Honourable Member discovered this mistake after 80 years' experience?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It was introduced in 1887

Shri Sri Prakasa: 1856!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think the answer is that large scale misuse was reported by certain police authorities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What does the Honourable Member mean by "large scale misuse"? Does he mean that a man gets down at a station and goes to some other station than the station mentioned in the ticket and makes use of the ticket for the purpose?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I mean that a large number of people were misusing the privilege.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How can they misuse it? A ticket is valid from a particular station to another station. A passenger can get down at an intermediate station after a certain stage of his journey. How can he possibly misuse the ticket?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One of the rules in connection with breaking of journeys is that the ticket is supposed to be endorsed at the station where the journey is broken. There are practical difficulties in securing this endorsement in all cases and that was one of the reasons why it was not possible to see that it was not misused.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does it mean that passengers have complained that these railway officers were not prepared to endorse their tickets and therefore they wanted this privilege being withdrawn?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. A passenger who wishes to misuse his ticket does not complain.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member assured that there are no misuse whatsoever now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The misuse is likely to be less under the new rules.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that ordinarily no endorsement is made when a passenger breaks his journey and he is allowed to go out of the exit on showing his long journey ticket?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is exactly the reason why it has been introduced.

Shri Sri Prakasa: But does not the same process exist even now?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The misuse was during the war. Now that the war is over why cannot the Honourable Member revert to the old system?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. President: Next question.

LOWERING OF RATES FOR POST CARDS, LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS

1189. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) if Government propose to lower the rates for post cards, letters and telegrams in the near future; if so, when; and if not, why not; and

(b) the income of the Department during the financial year 1944-45, and the expected income during the financial year 1945-46?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) So far as postal rates are concerned, I would refer the Honourable Member to the Finance Bill now under discussion in this House. Government do not propose to reduce the rates for telegrams at present as the traffic is already heavy and the existing channels cannot handle more traffic with speed and efficiency.

(b) The actual income of the P. & T. Department during 1944-45 was 29 crores 38 lakhs and 48 thousand. The revised estimated income during 1945-46 is 32 crores 84 lakhs.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of the question, does he mean that because the traffic is heavy he cannot reduce the charges on telegrams? On the contrary that should be the reason why he should reduce the charges?

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the enormous profits made by my Honourable friend, will he not reconsider his decision regarding the reduction of the rates of telegrams and also in view of the fact that ordinary telegrams nowadays travel at the same rate as postcards, will he not see his way to accelerate their speed?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The reason I gave for not reducing the rates for telegrams for the present was that the traffic is already heavy and any increase in traffic would increase the delay about which my friend has complained.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will not the increased income enable the Honourable Member to cope with the increased traffic?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is not merely a question of staff at either end but is necessary to provide extra channels and when the various channels taken by the military authorities have been released, we may be in a position to handle more traffic much better. We are more anxious to give a proper telegraph service than merely reducing the rate, thus increasing the traffic and thereby increasing also the dissatisfaction on the part of the public.

Seth Govind Das: What about the postcards and letters?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have referred to the Finance Bill in my reply: there are various amendments coming, and I will deal with the matter when the amendments are moved.

PUBLICATION OF LIST OF POST OFFICES IN EVERY POSTAL DISTRICT

1190. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

- (a) if Government publish any book containing a list of post offices in every postal district;
- (b) if the same is not on sale; and
- (c) if they will consider the desirability of putting this also on sale for public convenience?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) There is no such territorial unit as a "postal district". The P. & T. Guide includes a section containing the names of every post office in India. Against the name of every post office, the revenue district in which it is situated and the Head Post Office in whose jurisdiction it comes are indicated.

- (b) The P. & T. Guide is on sale.
- (c) Does not arise.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member really look into the publications of his Department? If he did, I am sure he will find a publication that gives the names of the post offices, district-wise; and this particular book is not on sale. I have seen this myself; will the Honourable Member put that book on sale also, like the Post Office Guide he refers to?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: This is not the first time that the Honourable Member has asked this question, and I have replied to it. There is such a book: it is not meant for public use: it is used by the post offices for sorting. The book gives a list of account head offices whose jurisdiction extends over more than one revenue district sometimes and sometimes they include various Indian states; and therefore the object which the Honourable Member has in view, namely, to get a list which will give the names of all post offices in a revenue district would not be gained. That particular publication is intended to facilitate the sorting of articles by post offices and by the railway mail sorting office.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly put that section of the book he refers to on sale, which gives the names of the post offices arranged according to postal districts? If he will permit me, I will explain. There is a post office in the district of Jaunpur called Bazar Arsia; the men who live there always call it Arsia Bazar. I searched the postal guide for the name, when my letters sent there miscarried; but could find no Arsia Bazar. Then I consulted the postmaster of this Council House, he found out the name for me as Bazar Arsia and then my letters addressed to the new name, were duly delivered. All the other letters got lost. I want that particular publication to be on sale, so that we may not get confused between Arsia Bazar and Bazar Arsia.

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I am quite prepared to consider the matter. At present I am afraid the shortage of paper and the difficulty of printing may delay the making of this book available, but we have no objection to make it available provided the public understand that it is not by revenue districts.

RUNNING OF CERTAIN IMPORTANT TRAINS ON O. T. RAILWAY

1191. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if the more important trains between Barauni and Sonapore on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway, run *via* Samastipur and Muzaffarpur and not by the main line;

(b) if there is no special rush between Barauni and Sonapore by these trains; and

(c) if Government propose to suggest to the Administration concerned either to put on extra carriages between these two stations or take these trains by the main line and provide new trains for the loop?

Will the Honourable Member permit me to correct a small mistake in the question? In part (b) of the question occur the words: "no special rush". The word 'no' should not be there. It is not a mistake of the office, but a mistake which occurred in my typed question itself. The word 'no' is an obvious mistake.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I understand from the current time-table that this is so.

(b) Government have no detailed information about the conditions prevailing locally.

(c) This is a matter to be represented to the Railway Administration through the Local Advisory Committee. I am, however, bringing this question and my reply to the notice of the General Manager, O. T. Railway.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that even if the Honourable Member has no information, I have information from my personal experience, and my representation to the General Manager received no response at all, not even an acknowledgement of my letter, will the Honourable Member kindly see to it that this section is properly provided for?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes; I will refer the matter to the General Manager and I will draw the attention of the General Manager to the misprint in the Honourable Member's question.

FARES ON AIR ROUTES CHARGED BY CIVIL COMPANIES

1192. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) the air routes in India which are being operated now by civil companies and the names of the civil companies;

(b) whether he will lay on the table a statement of the fares on these routes;

(c) whether these fares are controlled by Government; and

(d) how these fares are calculated?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me in this House to parts (a), (b) and (c) of starred question No. 123, put by Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, on the 8th February, 1946.

(b) I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for.

(c) Yes.

(d) The passenger fares have been fixed at a rate between three and four annas per passenger mile.

The following are the fares charged by the various Companies

Company	From	To	Fare	
			Rs.	
Tata Air Lines	Karachi	Ahmedabad	95	
	Karachi	Bombay	155	
	Karachi	Hyderabad	230	
	Karachi	Madras	300	
	Karachi	Colombo	390	
	Ahmedabad	Bombay	60	
	Ahmedabad	Hyderabad	145	
	Ahmedabad	Madras	215	
	Ahmedabad	Colombo	310	
	Bombay	Hyderabad	85	
	Bombay	Madras	155	
	Bombay	Colombo	250	
	Hyderabad	Madras	70	
	Hyderabad	Colombo	165	
	Madras	Colombo	105	
	Bombay	Delhi	150	
	Ahmedabad	Delhi	100	
	Indian National Airways	Delhi	Lahore	60
		Delhi	Chaklala	95
Delhi		Peshawar	115	
Lahore		Chaklala	35	
Lahore		Peshawar	60	
Chaklala		Peshawar	25	
Delhi		Jodhpur	70	
Delhi		Karachi	150	
Jodhpur		Karachi	90	
Delhi		Calcutta	150	
Delhi		Allahabad	75	
Delhi		Cawnpore	60	
Cawnpore		Calcutta	125	
Cawnpore		Allahabad	30	
Allahabad		Calcutta	100	

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member, in view of the war being over and the fares having been brought down in America, whether he will consider bringing down the fares in India also for civil aviation?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The matter will be considered by the licensing board. These are only temporary arrangements made until the licensing board fixes the rates.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to part (c), may I ask who settles these fares, the Government or the licensing board?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The licensing board.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Licensing board come into existence?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Not yet; they will be coming into existence.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then what is the present position? Who controls these rates? Has the Government no voice at all in settling these fares at present?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes; these rates have now been fixed by the Government in consultation with the operators.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member consider reducing these fares to first class fares or at least to air conditioned first class fares?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I will take note of that.

PLAN FOR POST-WAR AVIATION

1193. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any plan for post-war aviation; if so, why these plans have not been circulated to the Members of this House; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to start two companies for operation on international air routes; if so, when these companies will come into force?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative; copies of all the plans have been placed in the Library of the House.

(b) The Government of India's plans for the operation of air services from India to countries abroad, envisage the setting up of two corporations for this purpose. These plans are however still under examination and it will be some time before any decisions are taken.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to these two corporations, which are contemplated, do the Government of India, according to their plans, contemplate to have a dominating voice in their management and also share capital?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have not got the book here, but the plans as at present contemplated include Government taking a share, but not a dominating share.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know whether the private companies in existence in India at present will not be allowed to operate on these external air routes?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It will be a new company altogether.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I want to know whether the existing companies will not be allowed to operate on these external air routes?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I find it difficult to give a reply to that. All I can say is that the plans, as at present framed, contemplate the formation of a new company in which various people can take shares; Government can take a certain share, and shipping companies and various other transport companies and the public can all take shares. It is not the intention to give the operation to any one of the existing companies; it will be a new company altogether.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I submit that my question is that the existing companies were making plans for working external air routes and will they be allowed to operate these external air routes or not? I want an answer—yes or no.

An Honourable Member: Both.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The matter will be for the licensing board to decide. I am afraid I cannot give an answer.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I take it from the Honourable Member that for the present the Government does not contemplate any licenses to any of these private companies to operate on these air routes?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No; not until the licensing board has been formed.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Am I to understand that the British Overseas Airways will have a monopoly of these air routes to India from the United Kingdom?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No; certainly not. We are going to have an agreement with the British Government for operating only on the basis that India will have an equal right to operate from India to the United Kingdom.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member cannot explain the problem as a whole in answer to a question, will he make a statement about the policy of the Government so that we may visualise what the Government propose to do?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Certainly; I hope to do so today.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the licensing board carry out the assurances given by Government on the floor of this House, or will they overlook it as usual?

(No answer was given.)

CONSULTATION OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY *re* CIVIL AVIATION POLICY AND PROGRAMME

1194. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) whether, in view of the importance of civil aviation, Government are prepared to place before this Honourable House the policy and programme which is being adopted for this country;

(b) whether Government propose to consult this House before launching or committing themselves to any scheme of civil aviation and take the verdict of this House; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of the United Kingdom gave an opportunity to the House of Parliament with regard to the civil aviation programme and policy; if so, why the Government of India have delayed in bringing this matter before the House?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). Copies of the plans of the Government of India for the development of Civil Aviation in India have been placed in the Library of the House. I lay on the table a copy of the Press Communique, dated the 24th May, 1945, which states the general policy of Government in this matter. The rules relating to the licensing of air transport have been laid on the table of the House and the plans and policy of Government have been presented to the Standing Finance Committee and the Standing Advisory Committee and discussed by them. The Honourable Member is also aware that the matter was discussed in this House on the Budget grant.

(c) Two White Papers on Civil Aviation were prepared by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in U. K. and presented to Parliament. As regards the second part of the question, the Honourable Member is referred to my reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

POST-WAR PLAN FOR CIVIL AVIATION

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Government to take financial interest in selected cases. Establishment of Air Transport Licensing Board.

In November, 1944, the Government of India published the Second Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council on Reconstruction Planning. The general policy of Government regarding civil aviation and the plans prepared for a system of trunk air services in India were indicated in the Report. The services planned provide for the operation of daily air services on a series of trunk routes radiating from the air ports

of entry and exit at the Karachi and Calcutta, supplemented by routes radiating from the Capital at Delhi and from Bombay and Madras. The total mileage of the air routes planned exceeds 11,000 and the air services will be operated with aircraft of from 12 to 20 passenger capacity and will carry both mails and freight in addition. This broad plan, which had been accepted by the Policy Committee on Posts and Aviation, has now been approved by Government. It should be understood that this is a plan for the initial post-war period only and it is not the intention that there should be no further planning for either external air services or for additional internal air services. In fact, planning for the external air services of India is now in hand. Government are also confident that stimulated by the existence of internal trunk air services, there will undoubtedly come into existence, as a result of local or private initiative, a considerable number of feeder air services to serviceable needs.

Plans have also been prepared and approved for the construction of the necessary aerodromes and connected buildings and for the organisation of the air routes. Plans are under preparation—and it is hoped to a complete them soon—for the necessary works—organisation of the telecommunications organisation, the headquarters organisation and the training institutions necessary to implement their air transport plan.

The Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council referred to above stated that no decision had been taken as to the agency by which the air services of India will be established and operated. This question had been referred to the Policy Committee on which Provincial Governments, Indian States and prominent Commercial Bodies were represented and its views were obtained. In the Budget Session of the Assembly, Government were pressed to announce their decision on this important issue. After careful consideration of all aspects of the question, Government have now arrived at a decision, and they consider it desirable to announce this decision in order to clear up any uncertainty in the public mind so that plans of development by private enterprise may not be impeded.

The Policy of the Government of India is generally to promote the development and operation of air transport services, internal and external, by a limited number of sound and reliable private commercial organisations with their own capital and operated under normal commercial principles. In selected cases, Government will take a financial interest, but not a controlling interest, in the Companies operating the air services and appoint a Director on the Board. This policy does not, however, rule out the operation, by the State itself, of any air transport service or services in particular cases and such operation may be by the Central Government, a Provincial Government or the Government of an Indian State.

The operation of all air transport services will be subject to licences granted by a Licensing Board constituted under the authority of Government, and without such a licence no air transport service can be operated. Legal powers for this purpose have already been taken by Government by an amendment of the Indian Aircraft Act and it is hoped shortly to publish the Licensing Rules framed under the powers conferred by the Act. The object of Licensing is to ensure the safety and reliability of services, to eliminate uneconomic competition, to prevent the exploitation of the public, to conserve and utilise the national resources and effort for the optimum benefit of the country and to promote the development and expansion of air services on right lines and in the right direction. In fact, the object is to secure Order in the Air. All licensed operating Companies will be placed under an obligation to admit, in any of their training schemes, members of all communities and the admission of such trainees will, subject to suitable candidates being available, be in accordance with the prescribed communal proportions. Operating Companies may be granted State assistance in specific cases, but such assistance will be entirely at the discretion of Government and on conditions to be laid down in each case. A complete scheme for this purpose will be drawn up in due course but it will be based on a system of target operating costs (which will not include a return on capital invested) and target revenue designed to regard the efficient operator who reduces costs and increases revenue by commercial enterprise and development of traffic.

The Government of India have entered into discussion with the Indian States in the light of the policy stated above and are confident that it will be possible to secure an agreement which will enable the policy to be implemented in practice in a spirit of friendly co-operation so as to secure a rapid and orderly development of air transport services—internal and external—for the benefit of India and its people as a whole.

POSTS AND AIR DEPARTMENT;

New Delhi, May 24, 1945.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the House of Commons a day was allotted for the discussion of aviation and the verdict of the House was obtained as regards the policy of Aviation? In view of the importance of the subject, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of obtaining the verdict of the House regarding the future policy of aviation?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I hope to deal with this matter this morning on the debate on the Finance Bill.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I want that a separate day should be allotted for the discussion of aviation and the opinion of Members of the House should be sought regarding the future aviation plans and policy of the Government. We do not want to hear the Honourable Member's views. We want to place our views before Government for their guidance.

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I think Honourable Members had an opportunity on the cut motion on the Budget when dealing with the Civil Aviation Department and in connection with the Finance Bill. I am not in a position to say whether a separate day can be allotted.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is Government prepared to allot a day for the discussion of this very important subject? Is Government prepared to wait until the discussion has taken place on the floor of the House, before committing this country to a new policy?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I am not in a position to answer that question at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of not rushing with their plans for the establishment of these corporations and licencing board before they give an opportunity to this House as well as to the committee on Civil Aviation to discuss this matter with Government in full?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I think, Sir, the House has had an opportunity.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: In reply to a question by Diwan Chaman Lall, the Honourable Member said that he was not in a position to answer that question. Part (b) of my question specifically asks whether Government propose to consult this House before launching or committing themselves to any scheme of civil aviation. Why is he not in a position to answer that?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: The matter has been placed before the House. The licencing rules have been placed before the House for more than 30 days.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I should like to put a very simple question to the Honourable Member. He has now sensed the feeling of the House. Both the Congress and the League desire that a separate day should be allotted for discussing the whole question. After all the question of civil aviation is a very big problem as far as this country is concerned. The future development of civil aviation is a very big problem and I do not see why the Honourable Member is not prepared to say 'Yes, I shall ask for a separate day and the House will have the fullest opportunity of discussing the whole question.' I do not see any difficulty about it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In that connection I understand—I am not very well informed of the details—that it was placed before a committee of this House and discussed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Not the question of Corporation.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I was under the impression that they had agreed to the general policy. I was also under the impression that there have been discussions on this subject on the cut motion. The difficulty is that we are at the end of the Session now, we have a very heavy programme of Legislation before the House, and it will be extremely difficult to allot a day. It would have been easier if this matter had been brought up at an earlier stage.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Where is the difficulty? It is only one more day added to the time table. On the present programme it appears that the House will continue to work till the 12th April. Why cannot we have another day?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think it is likely that the Legislative programme will extend beyond the 12th already. We shall have to give consideration to the matter. I appreciate the feelings of the parties but I should like to assure the House that the Legislative programme is extremely heavy. If we could get through that programme of Legislation quickly, then we would certainly give careful consideration to this subject.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Although the programme is heavy, this question is a very important one.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I quite appreciate that. I was pointing out the difficulty at this late stage of the Session.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is my Honourable friend going to consider this matter and let the House know what decision Government have arrived at?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already explained that the programme of Legislation is very heavy. It is not all before the House yet. When we see what progress is made in the Legislation, we shall be able to say whether time will be found to squeeze in this item.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: This matter was placed before the Standing Committee for Posts and Air. While I was speaking on the cut motion regarding the policy of Government, the Honourable Secretary gave an assurance on the floor of the House that the minutes of the Standing Committee will be prepared and circulated to the Members of the House. This has not been done. What we have received is a printed copy in a nutshell putting in those paragraphs which suit the Government. The minutes do not give the full proceedings of the Standing Committee. We demand from the Government that the entire proceedings should be printed and circulated so that the House may know what is the view of the non-official members of the Standing Committee. I request you, Sir, to demand from the Honourable Member an explanation as to why he failed to print the entire proceedings of the Standing Committee. Why is this nutshell only circulated? This is not a case of paper economy.

Mr. President: The matter is now drifting into another province. Next question.

PAYMENT TO COOLIES FOR HANDLING OF PARCELS AT HOWRAH STATION

1195. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 15,000 per month is paid for the coolies for the handling of parcels at the Howrah Station and that this entire amount is kept by the contractor without paying a pie to the coolies? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: A sum of Rs. 1,150 per month (not Rs. 15,000 per month as stated in the question) is being paid by the East Indian Railway to the Cooly Contractor at Howrah Station for handling of parcels at Howrah Station. I expect to receive shortly a copy of the actual agreement and will lay on the table a reply to the second portion of the question as soon as my information is complete.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that these porters have to work for the railways free at all stations and very often they leave the luggage of *bona fide* passengers in order to work for the railways themselves?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. That is not my information.

Shri Sri Prakasa: That is my information and experience.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: At Howrah station, I understand that the arrangement is that unloading and loading of brake vans, luggage vans and parcel vans is done by the coolies between the trains and while they are not paid for that, they are exempted from paying any licence fee which is sometimes imposed by the railways, but I have not got full information. I shall look into the agreement. This matter has been raised in this House on several occasions before. I propose to look into the whole question and try to get greater uniformity in the procedure of the railways.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the contractors do not pay anything at all to the porters and pocket the entire amount themselves, as repeatedly mentioned on the floor of the House? This is only a small portion of the contractors' income. There are so many other sources of income that it is worth while for any Member of the Assembly, including Government Members, to become coolie contractors at Howrah.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will Government consider the advisability of introducing the system prevalent on the railways of other countries, of paying the porters themselves?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. I will look into the whole question. It has been looked into on numerous occasions in the past. It has not been found to be the best system for the conditions in India but as I have said, I shall look into the whole question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the measures which the Honourable Member's colleagues, the Labour Member is supposed to take in order to check vagaries of contractors will apply to this particular matter also?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That question should be addressed to the Labour Member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member himself has said that he wanted to devote some attention to this particular matter and that he has not been able to do so, will he now take an early occasion to study this matter personally and carefully and see that these grievances are redressed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already answered that question.

CLARIFICATION OF RULES FOR DEMOTING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

1196. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether all promotion on the North Western Railway are generally made in an officiating capacity;

(b) whether it is a fact that when an employee is desired to be punished by reduction to a lower grade, he is given no opportunity for explanation under Rule 1712 of the Establishment Code;

(c) the provision in the Establishment Code under which discrimination is made between confirmed and officiating employees, when it is proposed to reduce a man to the lower grade as a disciplinary measure, and

(d) whether Government propose to clarify the Rules to permit a chance of explanation under Rule 1712 to all employees who are to be reduced to lower grades; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Since vacancies of a permanent nature in higher posts are few and far between while temporary or officiating vacancies are of frequent occurrence, it follows that promotion to a higher post is almost invariably made, in the first instance, in an officiating capacity.

(b) No, but if he is only officiating and his reversion is not being ordered as a penalty for a specific offence, no explanation is called for.

(c) There is no discrimination where the reduction is to the lower grade as a disciplinary measure. Reversion as the outcome of adverse reports on work and fitness for confirmation, does not constitute reduction as a disciplinary measure.

(d) No clarification of the rules is considered necessary as they already provide for an explanation being called for in a case of reduction as a disciplinary measure.

EXPENDITURE FOR ENFORCING CONTROL ORDERS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

1197. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the number of staff employed at the Centre for enforcing Control Orders issued by Government, and the expenses for enforcing those Orders, for the years 1939 to 1945 separately for each year?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: During the war as many as 84 Control Orders were issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department and by the Supply Department of the Central Government alone. The collection of the information desired by the Honourable Member would involve an outlay of labour, time and expense out of proportion to the results to be achieved. Government have no information as to the extent and cost of Control Orders issued by Provincial Governments. If there is any particular Control in the Department of Industries and Supplies on which the Honourable Member would like to have this information, I shall examine the possibility of collecting it.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that crores of money are spent on these controls and when compared to that expenditure incurred on controls, the labour, time and expense involved in the collection of this information would be worth having and in view of this, will the Honourable Member collect the information asked for in the question?

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Is the Honourable Member aware that as recently as Friday last the Honourable the Finance Member gave as his opinion that there were more than one million controls in force at the moment?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I have no knowledge of how the Honourable the Finance Member reaches his calculation.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: As the figure involved is a very large one and as it affects the taxpayers to their detriment, and as the number of controls are very large, will he reconsider his decision regarding the outlay of labour, time and expense and collect this information as it will be worth having?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Not all controls are wholtime controls. Quite a number were done by people who were also doing something else. To arrive at the figure of expense would probably involve an estimate of the amount and value of the proportion of time devoted in different degrees by different people running these controls. Controls were meant in order to control something, because it would help for control to be done.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of appointing controller to enumerate these controls?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: If the Honourable Member is serious, we are prepared to consider it.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: How much does the cloth control cost?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I want notice.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Why should the Government grudge the expenses involved in collecting this information? Do they suspect it would be against their interest?

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member collect these figures and give us later on?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I cannot really promise that. As I explained in answer to the question, it would be really a big job. If the Honourable Member would put down a question as regards some particular control in which he is interested, then I would see what we can do to meet his wishes.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What do Government spend in controlling the length of the skirts of ladies in Delhi?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: So far as I know, nothing.

SCHEME FOR NEW LINE FROM TANDO MOHAMMAD KHAN TO BADLIN ON N. W. RAILWAY

1198. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that the North Western Railway have sanctioned a Railway line from Tando Mohammad Khan to Badlin via Bulri, Jhok, Bathoro, Sujawal and Jati? If not, is any such scheme under consideration?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No. The North Western Railway are carrying out the survey of a Railway line from Tando Mohammed Khan to Moghalbin.

WITHDRAWAL OF CONTROLS OF LUXURY GOODS

1199. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether there is at present any price or distribution control on the sale of luxury goods, e.g., silk, art silk, etc., and the particulars thereof, if any.

(b) if the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, the reasons for the continuation of these controls; and

(c) in view of the fact that these articles are consumed by a small portion of society, *viz.*, the richer classes, whether Government will consider the advisability of withdrawing these controls?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The price and distribution of silk and art silk goods are controlled. If the Honourable Member wishes, I shall give him copies of the relevant notifications, which came out last summer in the *Gazette of India*.

(b) Government do not think that silk goods in general can be called 'luxury' articles. Many types of silk and artificial silk goods are used by the middle classes; for example, for sarees and sari borders. Government's reason for continuing the controls is their desire to ensure that such supplies as there are will be made available to the consuming public at reasonable prices.

(c) Government have under consideration the withdrawal of control over silk.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is the Honourable Member aware of general complaints that silks are not available and the reason is that they are controlled?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: It is correct to say that this particular control has been subject to a good deal of criticism in the sense that this commodity seems to be peculiarly susceptible to disappearing and that is why I have answered that the Government have under consideration the withdrawal of control over silk.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that when these things are controlled they become the monopoly of only a privileged few to enjoy them and purchase them from the black market?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: It is the object of control not to have any article scarce. Before control comes in, it is only the privileged people who can pay the price and purchase it.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that as soon as anything is controlled, it goes out of the market?

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is the Honourable Member aware that many mills which deal in artificial silks have closed down because of want of raw materials and that is why there is black market in these goods?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I think the first step in the whole process is scarcity which the Honourable Member himself recognises. It is the actual shortage of a material which is greatly in demand that brings about these unfortunate consequences, and the object of these controls is to remove these unfortunate consequences at least to some extent.

IMPORT OF SULPHURIC ACID AND CAUSTIC SODA MANUFACTURING PLANTS FROM U. S. A.

1200. ***Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) how many sulphuric acid and caustic soda, manufacturing plants were imported into India after 1941 from the U. S. A. under lease lend;

(b) the names of the concerns to whom these plants were supplied, and the basis, thereof;

(c) at what price these plants were supplied to the concern;

(d) whether any individuals or representative bodies of chemical manufacturers in the country were consulted with regard to the distribution of these plants; if not, why not;

(e) if it is a fact that these plants have been supplied to concerns other than those already in the chemical industry; if so, why;

(f) if it is a fact that Government have distributed some of these plants to some textile mills and starch factories and other factories not in the trade;

(g) if so, whether Government are aware that textile mills and starch factories possessing these up-to-date plants will be in a better competitive position *vis-a-vis* those in the same industries, and that these factories will compete unfairly with the already established chemical factories, textile mills, starch factories and others *per se*; and

(h) whether Government propose to take steps to protect the interests of the concerns referred to in (g) above who are thus placed in an inferior competitive position due to the discriminating treatment to which they are subjected and how?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) No plants were imported under Lease/Lend. Four Sulphuric Acid Plants have been imported by Government for industry from U.S.A. on cash purchase. Negotiations are still going on about three Caustic Soda/Chlorine Plants which are to be imported through commercial channels.

(b) The plants have been allotted to the following concerns:

Sulphuric Acid Plants.—(1) M/S Bararee Coke Co. Ltd., Kasunda (Behar), (2) M/S H. Mumtaz & Co. Calcutta, (3) M/S Delhi Cloth & General Mills Ltd., Delhi, (4) M/S Anil Starch Products Ltd., Ahmedabad.

Caustic Soda Plants.—(1) M/S Delhi Cloth & General Mills Ltd. Delhi, (2) M/S H. Mumtaz & Co. Calcutta, (3) M/S Ahmedabad Manufacturing and Calico Printing Works, Ahmedabad.

The following factors were taken into consideration in making the allotment of these plants:

(1) The plants should be located where there is a shortage.

(2) The firm to which a plant is allocated should have experience in the production of chemicals.

(3) The firm should be a user of these chemicals, so that it can survive difficult times after the war.

(4) The firm should be financially strong enough to be able: (i) to invest the amount required for the purchase of the plants, and (ii) to invest after the war, because competition will necessitate additions to make the production of these chemicals an economic proposition.

(5) In view of the shortage of Muslim-owned chemical plants, at least one plant should be allotted to a Muslim concern.

(c) The F. A. S. price of the Sulphuric Acid plants is \$47,020 each. The ultimate price to the allottees has not yet been determined.

As to caustic soda/chlorine plants, the prices are still being negotiated, but the approximate F.A.S. price is estimated at \$400,000 each.

(d) Yes, Sir. The allotment was made by the Government of India, Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, which appointed an inter-departmental committee. The committee was guided by the considerations stated in reply to part (b) of this question. The need for consulting non-official individuals did not arise.

(e) The allottees, except M/S Anil Starch Products Ltd. and Ahmedabad Manufacturing and Calico Printing Co. Ltd., are all producers of chemicals. The two concerns just named are big consumers of chemicals.

(f) Yes, Sir. The allottees of two plants also possess textile mills, while one has a starch factory. These allottees are manufacturers or large consumers of these chemicals.

(g) and (h). The considerations in allotting these plants have been stated in replies to (b), (e) and (f) of the question. Government do not agree that there will be unfair competition, nor is it their policy to protect vested interests to the exclusion of new enterprises.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: The Honourable Member mentioned Messrs. Anil Starch Products Ltd., Ahmedabad, as one of the allottees of sulphuric acid

plants. Is he aware that there is a sulphuric acid manufacturing company near about Ahmedabad and it was not consulted although the factory was there?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: As I have said, individual firms were not consulted. The allocation was done by an inter-departmental committee, taking into consideration the general principles I have given at some length.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is the Honourable Member aware that a sulphuric acid plant can produce about five tons a day and Anil Starch Products, Ltd., can consume only five tons per year? Is that what is called consumption?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: My answer did not suggest a complete consumption, as it were, of the product. It was merely that the takers should be consumers of these products, not necessarily that they should be in a position to take the entire production.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a small difference between five tons a day and five tons a year?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: As stated, it is a large difference, but I would like to go into these figures a bit more.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Does the Honourable Member not feel that the other starch factories will be affected by unfair competition by allotting this plant to the starch factory?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I do not think so. We have dealt with that in the answer to the question already.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Are bye-products in the manufacture of caustic soda utilised in the manufacture of sulphuric acid and *vice-versa*? If not, why are these plants given to the same firms in some cases?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That point about consumption of bye-products of caustic soda is a very important one, and that was one of the reasons that guided the allocation of these particular plants, namely, that they should be in an area where the product and the bye-products can be consumed.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: If there is going to be any unfair competition what action do Government propose to take?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The Honourable Member is assuming unfair competition; we do not.

AGREEMENT WITH JODHPUR STATE FOR MANAGEMENT OF JODHPUR RAILWAY

1201. ***Sri A. Karunakara Menon:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the nature of agreement with the Jodhpur State for management of the British portion of the Jodhpur Railway;
- (b) when, and how the agreement can be terminated or reviewed; and
- (c) whether Government intend to work themselves the British portion of the Jodhpur Railway; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the brief particulars of the agreement as given on pages 120-121 of the History of Indian Railways as corrected up to 31st March, 1941, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) The agreement, subject to any modifications that may be mutually agreed to, can be terminated by the giving of not less than twelve calendar months previous notice by either party.

(c) No. The arrangement whereby this small section of metre gauge line is worked as part of the Jodhpur system, is both economical and convenient from the operational point of view.

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR CLASS I RAILWAYS IN INDIA

1202. ***Sri A. Karunakara Menon:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

- (a) which Class I Railways in India have no Local Advisory Committees; and

(b) whether the Railway Board have issued any instructions to such Railways to have Advisory Committees; if so, with what result; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Jodhpur State Railway and the Bikaner State Railway.

(b) A copy of the constitution proposed for formation of Local Advisory Committees on the State-owned Railways was sent in 1922 to the then Joint Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway for information. The Jodhpur Railway Administration do not consider that there is any justification for formation of such a Committee on that Railway. As regards the Bikaner State Railway, I understand the matter is at present under the consideration of His Highness' Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How is it that while all other railways have found it necessary as well as advisable to have their own advisory councils, this railway alone has been allowed the luxury of not having this advisory council?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a matter for the State administration to decide.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION OF RAILWAY STATION MASTER OF HODAL, G. I. P. RAILWAY

1203. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member kindly state if Government are aware that the general public of the Hodal town (a Railway Station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway) including a large number of shopkeepers, have preferred a complaint about the corruption of Railway Station Master of Hodal stating that high Railway officials have extorted about three lakhs of rupees by way of bribery through the said Station Master and that entries relating to the payment of bribery exist in the books of the shopkeepers?

(b) Has any inquiry been held into the conduct of the said Station Master? If not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of holding an independent inquiry into the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government have received a representation from the merchants served by Hodal Town Railway Station and the matter is under investigation.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With regard to the last paragraph of part (a) will the Honourable Member refer the matter to Khan Bahadur Qurban Ali to whom such cases are referred and who has been appointed by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. I understand that the matter has been referred to that branch.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY LINE FROM QADIAN TO PATTI OR KASUR *via* BEAS IN PUNJAB

1204. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No.18 of the 8th February, 1945, will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if post-war plans for the extension of Railways in the Punjab have since been finalised by the North Western Railway authorities or the Railway Board? If so, is it proposed to construct a Railway Line from Qadian to Patti or Kasur *via* Beas? If so when would it be constructed?

(b) Does he propose to consider the desirability of providing Railway facilities between Beas and Kasur or Patti? If not, what are the reasons?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The answer to the 1st part of the question is in the affirmative. No line from Qadian to Patti or Kasur is included at present in the list approved for investigation.

(b) The desirability has been considered in consultation with the Provincial Government and it has been decided not to include this project in the approved list at present.

RATIO OF SIKHS TO TOTAL APPOINTMENTS IN RAILWAY BOARD

1205. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the total number of each of the temporary, officiating and permanent appointments made in the grade of Assistants, Clerks and Stenographers in the Railway Board since January, 1944, and how many Sikhs were appointed in each category?

(b) Has the number of appointments of Sikhs in each category been according to their due share and representation? If so, how?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Appointments to non-gazetted vacancies in the Board's office are not made by direct recruitment only but also by transfer from Railway Offices. Communal considerations do not enter into the matter of transfers. Further the Sikh community is not entitled to any separate reservation but shares in the reservation of 8.3 per cent for 'Other minority communities' which include Anglo Indians, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Parsis. I lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of vacancies filled by direct recruitment during 1944 which shows that the recruitment of Sikhs in the office was satisfactory. A similar statement for 1945 is not yet ready. I may, however, add that the number of posts held by the members of the Sikh community on date is, Assistants—ten Clerks—eleven and Stenographers—three—which gives percentages of 4.9, 4.5 and 5 respectively of the total number of posts of each category.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that the quota of Muslims in these branches is much below the 25 per cent. quota reserved for Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member will put down a question, I will answer it.

Mr. President: It does not arise out of this.

INSPECTION OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES BY NON-OFFICIALS TO GET TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

†1206. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have surveyed and reviewed, the war-time activities and post-war programme of Ordnance Factories in all their aspects;

(b) whether they have appointed any Special Committee for the purpose; if so, whether any non-officials, including representatives of engineering and ancillary industries, were associated with such an enquiry;

(c) whether Government propose to give necessary facilities for Indian industrialists and manufacturers to visit and inspect such Ordnance Factories with a view to obtaining available technical equipment and personnel from these factories, for the development of Indian industries: and

(d) whether it is a fact that these factories will revert to the War Department and Master General of Ordnance after the 1st April, 1946, and that they would be open after that period for inspection or visit by Indian industrialists interested in their output or technical processes for adaptation and use for civil purposes?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes.

(b) The review was undertaken by a Departmental Committee, and no non-official was appointed to it as it is not usual to include non-officials in Departmental Committees.

(c) Yes; as soon as it is clear which factories can be released.

(d) Some Ordnance Factories will revert to War Department from the 1st April, 1947, and that Department will as far as possible have no objection to the visit of the interested industrialists to the Factories.

ROAD ROLLERS INDENTED FROM U. S. A.

†1207. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand for road rollers in India according to Government's estimates;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have placed orders for about 1,000 road rollers from the United Kingdom; and

(c) whether Government have invited tenders within the country for only twenty-four road rollers (twelve steam and twelve diesel); if so, the reasons for the wide difference between the number of the units to be imported and those to be ordered within the country?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) 2,500 road rollers are urgently required for delivery before the middle of 1948.

(b) The D. G., I. S. D., London, was asked to place orders for 891 road rollers but so far he has only been able to place orders for 250.

(c) Yes Sir. Road rollers are not at present manufactured in India. This order was an experimental one intended to encourage those who have some facilities to go into production.

India's immediate requirements of road rollers cannot be met except by import.

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

VISIT OF ROAD ROLLER MISSION TO INDIA.

†1208. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether a Road Roller Mission has arrived in India and been touring about the country? If so, what is its composition and purpose?

(b) Has the Mission submitted its Report to Government? If so, what are the recommendations of this Mission?

(c) Will the Report of the Mission be published and placed on the table of this House? Do Government intend to consult Indian Industrialists and manufacturers in regard to this Report and discuss with them the whole question of manufacture of Road Rollers within the country at an early date?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir. The following were the members:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| (1) Mr. George Bryden | <i>Leader.</i> |
| (2) Mr. Edward Burgess | <i>Member.</i> |
| (3) Mr. C. J. Ritchie | <i>Member.</i> |
| (4) Mr. E. R. Howlett | <i>Member.</i> |

The Mission was asked to advise Government on the capacity available in the Ordnance Factories for the manufacture of Road Rollers or components as well as for their assembly.

(b) Yes, Sir. Its recommendations are that while the steam boiler and the diesel oil engine part of the Road Rollers must be imported the rest of the components can be manufactured partly in the Ordnance Factories and partly in the other Engineering concerns, and then assembled in India.

(c) Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by such publication. They are already consulting Indian industrialists and manufacturers.

ROAD ROLLERS AVAILABLE FROM MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND U. S. A. SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSAL BOARD.

†1209. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state the total number of Road Rollers made available from (i) the military authorities, and (ii) the United States of America Surplus Property Disposal Board?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Our own military authorities have not yet declared any surplus to us. The take-over from Americans is at present in progress and I am sorry I cannot say exactly how many road rollers will be forthcoming from that source. So far as I can see at present however about 50 of all types may become available.

SUPPLY OF WAGONS FOR LOADING OF TIMBER FROM JHELUM.

1210. ***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport kindly state if it is a fact that the North Western Railway Administration has placed restrictions on the loading of timber from Jhelum and that no wagons have been supplied for the last two months to the merchants for the transport of timber?

(b) Is it a fact that huge stocks of timber worth more than a crore have accumulated at Jhelum?

(c) Are Government aware that the non-supply of Wagons has resulted in a great loss to the merchants and inconvenience and uneasiness to the general public?

(d) When do Government propose to relax these restrictions and give a free supply of wagons to the merchants of Jhelum?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No restrictions have been placed on the loading of timber at Jhelum. Between the 21st January, 1946, and the 19th March, 1946, 442 wagons were loaded with timber at Jhelum.

(b) Large stocks of timber are normally held in the timber yards at Jhelum. Government has no information concerning their present quantity and value.

(c) and (d). It is reported that on the 19th March, 1946, 139 wagon-loads of timber were awaiting despatch at Jhelum. As many wagons as possible are being supplied for the loading of timber at Jhelum consistently with the

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

responsibility of Government for seeing that priority is given to the movement of more essential commodities.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is my Honourable friend absolutely well aware of this fact that no restrictions were placed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is so.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Will my Honourable friend make a further enquiry and find out whether the information supplied to him is correct?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will, Sir. But it would help if the Honourable Member would state what he knows about this affair.

Diwan Chaman Lall: There was a restriction during that period.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will certainly look into that.

RELIEF AGAINST BRASS AND COPPER CONTROL ORDER, 1945

1211. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Brass and Copper Control Order, 1945, was promulgated after the termination of the War? If so, what were the reasons therefor?

(b) Is he aware of the difficulties which the small manufacturers of hand-made utensils are experiencing? If so, what action if any, does he propose to take to give relief to them?

(c) Did he receive a copy of the Resolutions passed by the Conference of the All-India Metal Merchants held in Delhi on the 5th and 6th January, 1946? If so, what action, if any, has been taken thereon?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir, but it was issued in supersession of the Brass Utensils (Control) Order, 1944, previously in force. Under the revised Control Order, Government, have also fixed ceiling prices of Brass and Copper sheets, Ingots and Scrap. This was done to combat black marketing in raw material. The ceilings were fixed in consultation with the industry.

(b) The root difficulty is the metal being in very short supply. Every effort is being made to arrange for larger supplies from abroad and to increase releases to the manufacturers of utensils.

(c) Yes, Sir. The main tenor of those resolutions was that the control should be abolished. Government do not consider that the removal of the control at present would either increase supply which as I remarked in the answer to (b) is the root of the difficulty, or lead to more even distribution.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Supply Member had promised a conference between himself and the industry, could the Honourable Member give us an idea of the result of that conference?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Yes, Sir. It was held on the 21st and a variety of people were present, and the question whether supplies could be made direct to workers who had formed themselves into co-operative societies was the main subject of that conference. Most unfortunately the Registrar of Co-operative Societies of the Province from which most of the literature as it were had come was not able to be present, but we have wired to him asking him the actual number of workers in these societies, and on certain other points, such as, for example, whether the societies would restrict sale only to members of the societies. You can see the relevance of that point—I hope I am not making a speech, Sir. There was an effort made there to get to some agreement between people who hitherto handled the imports and these associations, but without success, and the intention is that after we have got the replies from the Registrars of Co-operative Societies we will consider actually fixing an allocation ourselves.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Why has monopoly been given to only fourteen or fifteen persons throughout the country in the matter of importing brass sheets from outside?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: These were the people who had long been in this business, and were competent to handle its distribution.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member satisfied that the present system works better than the *status quo ante*?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I think it is undoubtedly the case that there are several features about these things that are not satisfactory. It is certainly not satisfactory. In this particular material we are still quite a long way from normal peace time conditions, and that is the root of the difficulty. It is a very difficult thing and I quite agree with the Honourable Member that it is rather unsatisfactory business altogether, but we are struggling to make it a little more satisfactory.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: What precaution has the Honourable Member taken to see that the normal trade channels are not disturbed?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The channels we have used were precisely chosen to represent the normal trade channels.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: In view of the fact that utensils are not available in the bazar at controlled prices, will the Honourable Member see that the control is removed so that utensils may be obtained at least?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Although there is no food available!

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I think you can take it that from one point of view we will be very glad to get rid of these controls because they give headaches to many more people than manufacturers, but I do not think I can answer off hand in that way. As I have said, it is particularly difficult and it is one in which a lot of interests are involved, some of them of quite recent origin. It is really a matter to some extent of this industry being in a process of quite rapid development and the problem which is really before us is to tune this process in with this Control which we have to keep going because of scarcity.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member remove the monopoly and see how it works? That is the whole trouble.

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I do not think there is any question of monopoly.

ALLOCATION OF CLOTH ON POPULATION BASIS AND CREATION OF RESERVE AND NOMINATED DEALERS.

1212. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if he is aware that in the allocation of cloth to a particular locality on population basis no regard is paid to the proportion between its rural and urban population with the result that at places where the urban population far exceeds the rural population shortage is felt about fine cloth, while coarse cloth is found in abundance, and *vice versa*? Do Government propose to remedy this defect by allocation of fine and coarse cloth according to the proportion of rural and urban population of the locality?

(b) Are Government aware that the cloth trade has been more adversely affected by the creation of a new class of dealers known as Reserve and Nominated dealers?

(c) Are Government aware that this new class of dealers has practically monopolised the trade and the old dealers are starving practically?

(d) Did Government receive any representation of the consumers or traders to the effects that they don't want cheap mill retail shops in their locality? If so, will Government place it on the table of the House? If not, what objection have Government got in allowing new shops being opened by the Mills wherever necessary?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The responsibility of the Central Government is to see that each Province gets its proper quota of fine and coarse cloth. The Central Government leaves to Provincial Governments full discretion as to how they should distribute their fine and coarse cloth within their own territory.

(b) The Honourable Member is I take it referring to the appointment by Provincial Governments of agents to buy the monthly provincial quota of cloth from mill centres. The Central Government leaves the selection of such agents to the discretion of Provincial Governments. Clearly Provincial Governments can only nominate a limited number.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No such representation has been received by the Central Government. As regards the last sentence of this part of the question, I invite the Honourable Member's attention to parts (b) and (c) of the Honourable Mr. Waugh's reply to his Question No. 458, asked on the 22nd February, 1946.

LARGE STOCK OF CLOTH BALES LYING UNBOOKED WITH MILLS

1213. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies aware that large stocks of cloth bales are lying unbooked for months together with the mills to the inconvenience of the mills, cloth merchants and the general public?

(b) What harm do Government anticipate in placing cloth in higher class in respect of priority than is assigned to it at present?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) No, Sir.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Honourable Mr. Waugh's reply to part (a) of Question No. 457, asked on the 22nd February, 1946. Cloth is classified above normal civil and military traffic, though below traffic of greater urgency, but it can be moved to Class II when circumstances demand it. To move it to a higher class even in normal circumstances would hold up more pressing movements and defeat the purpose of the priority list.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any expeditious steps being taken to rush cloth in the famine stricken areas of Madras Presidency?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That very point is being examined.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: How long will it take to examine the question?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I think as a result of suggestions made by the Honourable Member.

Mr. President: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

EXPORT AND SHORTAGE OF FINE CLOTH

1214. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that under rationalisation scheme the Mills were obliged to increase their production by ten per cent by a reduction in picks or adoption of coarser counts?

(b) Does this reduction in picks or adoption of coarser counts not mean a deterioration in the qualities of the cloth produced?

(c) Is it not a fact that this will lead to a greater import of finer cloths?

(d) If Government think that there is a shortage of cloth production specially of the fine quality in India, why are they encouraging export of cloth to foreign countries?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The aim of the rationalisation scheme was an increase in production of about ten per cent by means of a reduction in picks and a restriction in the number of counts a mill is permitted to produce. It is not strictly correct that mills were obliged to adopt coarser counts.

(b) Yes, Sir, to some extent.

(c) No, Sir. The Government of India sent a telegram in October last to the Secretary of State for India informing him of these restrictions and asking that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom should permit export to India of only such fine varieties of cloth as would not in any case, even if there were no restrictions, have been manufactured in India.

(d) It is hardly correct to say that Government encourages export of cloth. The quantity of cloth that Government is allowing to be exported this year is about 1/15th of India's total cloth production. Export of cloth of 48's counts and above is prohibited, and that of 36's to 47's is severely restricted. Many factors enter into the present trading position and shortages have a way of reacting on each other. Up to a point therefore cloth like food may have to be looked at on a global basis. The answer to the second query in this part of the question is therefore in the negative.

EXPORT OF MILL CLOTH.

1215. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies give the yardage figures of Mill cloth exported to foreign countries from India in 1944 and 1945?

(b) What was India's total production of Mill cloth in yardage prior to War and in 1944 and 1945? How much cloth India used to import prior to War? What was the yardage of Government purchases prior to War and in 1945 as well?

(c) How are Government now intending to meet the acute shortage of cloth in the country.

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The total quantities of cloth, mill-made and handloom, exported to foreign countries from India in 1944 and 1945 were 484 and 464 million yards respectively. Separate statistics regarding the exports of mill-made cloth are not available.

(b) The total production of mill cloth in India in pre-war years was on an average about 4,000 million yards; during 1944 and 1945 it was 4,815 and 4,654 million yards respectively. Pre-war imports of cloth averaged 667 million yards. Figures of Government purchases in pre-war years are not available. In 1945 Government bought 575 million yards for Defence purposes.

(c) Last year the quota for exports was 300 million yards in each half year. This year the quota for the current six months has been cut down to 250 million yards, and in the second six months of this year it will probably be cut down still further. Again, the Defence quota for 1946 is 250 million yards as against the offtake of 575 million yards in 1945. But Government appreciate that the only satisfactory remedy for the cloth shortage is to increase production in India. Government's plan for expansion involves the import of about three million spindles. I am bound to say however that it will probably be a couple of years or so before the import of new machinery begins to increase production.

INCONVENIENCE TO PASSENGERS AT BOOKING OFFICE, AMBALA CITY.

1216. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased so state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Booking Office at the Ambala City Railway Station is notified as open all the twenty-four hours every day;

(b) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints that in practice the said Booking Office opens only a few minutes before the arrival of a train and the consequent rush of passengers to the Booking Office window is a source of great inconvenience to the passengers, especially women, children, and weak persons;

(c) whether it is a fact that grievances of the travelling public mentioned in (b) above were brought to the notice of the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi and the District Traffic Superintendent, Saharanpur, by the Secretary District Bar Association, Ambala, by letters, dated the 2nd November, 1945, 3rd January, 1946, and 29th January, 1946, on which no action was taken; and

(d) considering that Ambala City is the head quarters of the district where all the courts, civil, criminal, and revenue, except that of the Commissioner are located and is also a large commercial centre to which people from far and near travel by rail, what action has been or is proposed to be taken to remove the grievances of the travelling public above referred to?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The only complaint that has been received was from the Secretary, Bar Association, Ambala City, who complained that the Booking Office was not kept open for twenty-four hours, but opened only immediately before the arrival of the train. Enquiries were made and it was found that the allegations made in the complaint were not correct. Tickets are issued promptly and expeditiously throughout the twenty-four hours.

(d) This does not arise.

CONFISCATION OF MR. UTTAM CHAND'S PROPERTY BY AFGHAN GOVERNMENT FOR SHELTERING SGT. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

1217. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Afghanistan in or about 1943 confiscated and sold by auction the properties of one Mr. Uttam Chand, trader in Kabul, who was supposed to have sheltered Sgt. Subhas Chandra Bose;

(b) whether Government are aware that the said Uttam Chand was arrested and deported into India by the Afghan Government;

(c) whether Government are aware that the said Uttam Chand complained to the Government of India about the action of the Afghan Government;

(d) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government of India to get back the properties of the said Uttam Chand or their just value from the Afghan Government, and with what result; and

(e) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government of India to get the said Uttam Chand re-established in Kabul or to get him reparations for the loss of his trade?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) and (b). Uttam Chand was arrested and deported from Afghanistan in May/June 1942. The Government of India understand that before his departure his property in Kabul was locked and sealed in his presence by the Afghan authorities. Later certain persons nominated by Uttam Chand as his agents in Kabul for the disposal of his property declined to act for him, and the Afghan Government accordingly sold it by auction. The sale proceeds, after deducting certain amounts due by Uttam Chand to the Afghan Government were credited to Uttam Chand's account in the Bank of Afghanistan in Kabul.

(c) and (d). Uttam Chand was provided with detailed statement of account relating to the sale of his property. He raised objections in respect of certain items. These were passed on to the Afghan Government for consideration through His Majesty's Legation in Kabul and a reply from the Afghan Government is still awaited.

(e) None.

REPRESENTATION FROM PRESIDENT, METAL MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, C. P. AND BERAR.

1218. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if he has received any representation from the President, Metal Manufacturers' Association, Central Provinces and Berar, dated the March 1st, 1946?

(b) What action, if any, has he taken thereon?

(c) Is it not the policy of the Government of India to assist the Metal Manufacturers by supplying them with raw materials directly instead of through middlemen?

(d) If not, why have not steps been taken to supply the Manufacturers Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar with their require-

(e) Are Government aware of the great set back which the work of these Co-operative Societies has suffered because of the non-supply of raw materials?

(f) Is it also a fact that representation in this connection was made by the Director, Co-operative Societies, Central Provinces as well? If so, what action was taken thereon?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Thakur Piare Lal Singh the signatory of the representation in question was informed with reference to another communication on the subject that the Government's decision in the matter would be communicated to him after discussions with the representatives of the Bombay Metal Exchange and the Co-operative Societies which are now proceeding.

(c) and (d). Government's policy has been not to interfere with normal trade channels and practices except to the extent necessary to protect other interests. During pre-war days metal manufacturers obtained their raw material through numerous middlemen, and so long as these middlemen do not abuse their position Government cannot in fairness cut them out. In view however of complaints made by the various Co-operative Societies of C. P. and Berar, the question of making direct allotments to them is engaging the serious attention of Government.

(e) Government have received representations to this effect and are examining the question in detail. All the Societies came into existence only very recently, and therefore cannot be said to have been deprived of any advantages they had previously.

(f) Yes, Sir. The matter was referred to the Metal Exchange Association who are the distributing agents for that area but as they raised objections to the direct allotment of metal to the Co-operative Societies, Government decided to discuss the question before changing the prevailing system of distribution. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies was told of this. He has not been able to attend the recent discussions and this has involved some delay.

SPECIAL PAY FOR DEPUTATIONISTS TRANSFERRED TO RAILWAY BOARD

1219. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that junior clerks transferred to the office of the Railway Board from Railways as temporary Assistants are drawing Rs. 50/- each per month as special or deputation allowance over and above their pay and dearness allowance?

(b) Is the deputation allowance referred to in (a) above being paid to the staff transferred to the War Transport, Home and Finance Departments of the Government of India?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the negative, what is the reason for paying that allowance to the staff transferred to the Railway Board's office, and why cannot that staff be fixed in the Railway Board's scales of pay?

(d) Is it a fact that the Railway Board have distributed their permanent staff into Noting and Routine segments in accordance with the orders of the Home Department?

(e) Is it a fact that although the permanent staff borne on the Noting segment were awaiting promotions, junior clerks transferred from Railways were provided as temporary Assistants in the Railway Board's office? If so, why?

(f) Is it a fact that the staff brought on deputation to the Railway Board's office will be sent back to their parent offices where they hold liens, at the time of retrenchment whenever it takes place? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Since 24th September, 1942, staff transferred from Railways to the Railway Board's office have been paid either the pay fixed, under the normal rules, in the Board's office scales, or the Railway scales of pay for which they are eligible from time to time plus special pay of Rs. 30 for staff recruited from offices in Delhi and Rs. 50 for staff recruited from offices other than Delhi, whichever is higher.

(b) The reply is in the negative so far as the Finance and Home Departments are concerned. The War Transport Department have granted rates of pay according to the merits of each case.

(c) In order to avoid as far as possible a serious diminution in efficiency, it was essential to obtain trained staff in large numbers from the Railways and fixation in the Railway Board's scales of pay did not offer the requisite incentive for staff to volunteer for transfer.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes, in a few cases where the permanent staff could not either be spared for administrative reasons or were not suitable for the new work having had no previous experience of it.

(f) Yes, but it is possible that some suitable men may be absorbed in any increased establishment which the Railway Board have to maintain in the post war period.

UNAUTHORISED USE OF SALOONS BY RAILWAY OFFICIALS ON O. T. RAILWAY.

1220. ***Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that one Mr. Watson, Loco. Officer at Izatnagar, in the Oudh Tirhut Railway placed his Saloon at the disposal of one Mr. F. Barker an officer of the Bengal and Assam Railway for his private journey from Bareilly to Lucknow?

(b) Is it a fact that the said officer had neither a Pass nor tickets for the journey from Bareilly to Lucknow?

(c) Is it a fact that on the matter being detected, the General Manager of the Bengal and Assam Railway, who is an European, requested the General Manager of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway to issue a special pass, just to save him, and that the latter complied with the request?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Barker had a pass for his journey from Bareilly to Howrah via Lucknow, but this was available over the E. I. Railway route.

(c) On his return to Calcutta Mr. Barker immediately reported to the General Manager, B. A. Railway that he had travelled between Bareilly and Lucknow by the O. T. Railway route instead of by the E. I. Railway route authorised on his pass. The General Manager, B. A. Railway, communicated the fact to the General Manager, O. T. Railway, who issued a pass to cover the journey made by Mr. Barker on the O. T. Railway.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN AS MANAGER, O. T. RAILWAY, IN LEAVE VACANCY.

1221. ***Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that the General Manager of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway is going on long leave. If so, who is going to be sent as a General Manager in his place?

(b) Does he propose to consider the question of an Indian being put as a General Manager on the said Railway? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The General Manager is proceeding on six months' leave from some time in April. As regards the second part, the appointment of his successor is still under consideration.

(b) Government cannot undertake to make selections for such appointments on the basis of race or community.

DISCUSSION AT U. N. O. ASSEMBLY OF ANTI-INDIAN LEGISLATION BY SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

1222. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state whether the Indian Delegation to the U.N.O. brought to the notice of the U.N.O. Assembly or the Security Council by a special memorandum or informal discussions, the threat of discriminatory legislation held out by the South African Government against the Indians? If not, why not, especially in view of the adjournment motion passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 4th February, 1946, taking a very serious view of the threatened discriminatory anti-Indian legislation introduced into the South African Parliament?

Mr. H. Weightman: This question will be answered by the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department.

DEFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION OF TEXTILE VARIETIES

1223. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 683, dated the 5th March, 1946, will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, fixes the different varieties and quantities of each variety of goods granted to each whole-saler nominated by the Provincial Government?

(b) Is he aware that the Purchase Authority granted by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, is presented to Distribution Committees established at different centres of manufacture, whose work is to register the varieties and quantities of different goods?

(c) Is it a fact that the Commission Agent of the provincial buyer has to purchase the varieties according to the specification of the Distribution Committee?

(d) Is it a fact that if the provincial buyer finds something unsuitable and does not want to purchase it he will have to forego that much of allotment, thus reducing the quantity of goods coming over to the province at the time for purchase of goods allotted is very short?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The Textile Commissioner merely fixes the percentages of cloth for each Province in three broad categories, namely, superfine at 4.4 per cent fine at 10 per cent and coarse at 85.6 per cent.

(b) There are Committees only at Bombay and Ahmedabad.

(c) No, Sir; a provincial buyer has the option of buying any varieties of cloth so long as the quantities fall within the percentages mentioned in reply to part (a) of the question.

(d) No, Sir.

REPATRIATION OF INDIANS FROM SIAM AND SHANGHAI

1224. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has received representations from Indians resident in Siam, Shanghai and other eastern countries desiring to come back to India; and

(b) if Government are making any arrangements to repatriate them?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) The Government are aware that many Indians resident in Far Eastern countries are anxious to return to India.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 2 of the reply given by me on the 8th February, 1946, to question No. 133.

DETENTION OF MR. NANAK CHAND BY CHINESE AT SHANGHAI

1225. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware that Mr. Nanak Chand was arrested by the Chinese at Shanghai on or about December 3, 1945, and that he is being kept in detention without trial; and

(b) if Government know the reasons for such detention; and if any steps are being taken to get him released and brought back to India?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Yes.

(b) According to the Government of India's information Mr. Nanak Chand was arrested on a charge of alleged collaboration with the enemy and is detained in the Shanghai Jail, pending investigation of the charges against him. A report is cited from the Indian Attache at Shanghai who has already represented to the local Chinese authorities the need either to release him or to bring him to trial without delay.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

OVERCROWDING IN TRAINS ON BAREILLY-ALIGARH LINE

154. Sjt. Seth Damodar Swaroop: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware:

(i) that on the Bareilly-Aligarh line of the East Indian Railway only two trains are run—morning and evening;

(ii) that only one Inter Class compartment is attached in these trains; and

(iii) that because of lack of necessary travelling facilities in the Third Class more passengers travel now a days in the Inter Class than before and that the Inter Class compartment in these trains is crowded to suffocation every day?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to see that at least two more Inter Class compartments are attached to these trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) No. The normal inter class accommodation provided on these trains is two compartments of which one is reserved for ladies.

(iii) The increase in inter Class travel is due to a variety of factors, such as improved purchasing power, and not necessarily to the lack of adequate facilities in the third class. The statement that the inter class compartments on these trains are crowded to suffocation every day is not borne out by the annual census taken by the Railway Administration, which showed that on an average the occupation was 97 per cent. of the marked seating capacity.

(b) No, as an increase in inter class accommodation would have to be met by a corresponding decrease in the third class accommodation, much to the detriment of third class passengers. The Railway Administration, however, propose to introduce an additional train each way on this section in the near future, and it is hoped that this measure will provide the needed relief.

REDUCTION IN STAFF DUE TO WITHDRAWAL OF CONTROLS

155. Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state with reference to his remarks in the Budget speech regarding the withdrawal of 150 controls:

(a) the number of staff employed in connection with (i) controls that are withdrawn, and (ii) controls that are still in force from 1939 onwards, year by year;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on account of—(i) controls that are withdrawn, and (ii) controls that are still in force from 1939 onwards, year by year; and

(c) (i) the number of staff discharged so far, and (ii) the reduction in total expenditure owing to withdrawal of the said controls?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) to (c). The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to starred question No. 1197 answered to-day.

THE INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend
12 Noon the Income-Tax Act, 1922.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I beg to move:

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic as may be referred to it during the financial year 1946-47.”

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic as may be referred to it during the financial year 1946-47."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO ALL-INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion of Sir John Sargent, namely:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by, the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the All-India Council for Technical Education constituted by the Government of India."

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That in the original motion for the word 'two' the word 'five' be substituted."

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in the original motion for the word 'two' the word 'five' be substituted."

Sir John Sargent (Secretary, Education Department): On a previous occasion when this amendment was moved I expressed the willingness of Government to accept it but you, Sir, pointed out that in view of the fact that the official notification authorising the constitution of this body provided for two members to be elected by this House, it would not be in order for the House to appoint five unless and until the notification had been amended and I undertook to provide for the necessary amendment of the notification. This has now been done and the constitution provides for the election of five members of this House on the All-India Council and we are also prepared to accept the amendment.

Mr. President: So I shall put the amendment to the House. The question is:

"That in the original motion for the word 'two' the word 'five' be substituted."

The motion was adopted:

Mr. President: I shall now put to the House the motion as amended: The question is:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the All-India Council for Technical Education constituted by the Government of India."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION IN INDIA

Sir John Sargent: (Secretary, Education Department): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, with effect from the date of election."

I may say here that here also, in anticipation of the wishes of the House that the previous representation of two might be increased to five, we have amended the official constitution of this body.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, with effect from the date of election."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Sir John Sargent (Secretary, Education Department): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of the Asembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India constituted by the Government of India."

The same amendment has been made in the constitution of this body as in the previous case with which I have just dealt.

The President: The question is:

"That the members of the Asembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India constituted by the Government of India."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: 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 Roads	27th March	1st April
2. All-India Council for Technical Education.	27th March	1st April
3. Central Advisory Board of Education in India.	28th March	2nd April
4. Advisory Board of Archaeology of India.	28th March	2nd April

The nominations for all the four Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of 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 STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have also to inform the Assembly that the following ten non-official members have been elected to serve on the Standing Committee for the External Affairs Department for the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-1946 and the financial year 1946-47:—

(1) Khan Bahadur Sharbat Khan, (2) Colonel Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji, (3) Mr. P. J. Griffiths, (4) Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, (5) Khan Abdul Ghani Khan, (6) Seth Sukhdev, (7) Mr. M. Asaf Ali, (8) Prof. N. G. Ranga, (9) Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, and (10) Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.—*contd.*

Mr. President: We shall now proceed with the consideration of the Finance Bill.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): I was considering the effect of the reduction of duty on kerosene, from the point of view of the poor man of this country. This is the only positive advantage which the Finance Member has spoken of in his Finance Bill which according

to him will benefit the poor man. Now, Sir, in regard to this kerosene, I submitted that kerosene was not being used to a very great extent by the poor classes of this country. If you will kindly see the extent of benefit to be conferred you will certainly agree with me. Now a gallon consists of six bottles and the reduction of price may be to the extent of nine pies per gallon. One bottle per month is the amount of supply which is allowed to a family in urban towns. As regards the rural areas, I do not think that one bottle per every six months even is supplied to a family. Therefore it follows that this advantage is of a very illusory nature and is almost airy in conception and reality. There is no other advantage which this Finance Bill seeks to confer on the poor man and an advantage of a negative kind has been proposed by the Finance Member. He says that "there are two other things which I am doing for the poor man, one negative and one positive. As to the first I do not think that any of my proposals will add to the cost of his essential purchases." I doubt it very much, Sir, if the essential purchases of the poor man will remain unaffected by the proposals in the budget. Thus, Sir, so far as these positive and negative advantages are concerned, there is nothing which can give solace to the poor man. So far as the direct taxes are concerned, the Finance Member has admitted that he is unable to decrease any of the taxes, for the simple reason that according to his estimate there is no direct taxation so far as the poor man is concerned, but this is not correct.

Now, Sir, if you will consider the necessities of the poor man you will come to the conclusion that he is in a very sorry plight. His necessities are water, food, salt, cloth, house and his cattle. I will take up all these things in the order in which I have stated.

First of all, let us consider the question of his water supply. The poor man who lives in the villages generally takes his water not from a *pucca* well but from a pond, which is usually insanitary. If you will see the Health Report of the Bhore Committee you will observe that many diseases result on account of the use of this pond water. In many places the poor man has to bring drinking water from places four or five *koses* away. The whole day is taken in the process of bringing a pitcher of drinking water. Besides the water is quite brackish and unfit for human consumption and cattle and human beings die on account of the water being unhealthy.

As regards food, a study of the same report which I have already referred to would show that the food supply of the poor people is quite unhealthy and insufficient. At the same time, generally speaking, it may be taken as correct that the poor man takes nothing but cereals. He does not get any milk, nor fruits, vegetables, meat or eggs as in other countries. His sole diet is cereals and salt. If you consider the milk consumption in India the average consumption is 6.6 oz., whereas in other countries, in England for example, the consumption is about seven times as much.

As regards cereals I have to submit for your consideration one aspect of the case which to my mind is the most important, which should be considered by the House. Usually the poor man requires two pounds per day. It is now proposed to cut down his ration to a much smaller quantity. I wonder how the poor man will subsist if his ration is cut down so much. It is easy for a man to fast for a day, or a week or even a month but if the daily ration is cut down to the extent of 50 per cent. for a long period the result will be that these poor people, who cannot generally resist disease nor enjoy good health, will be further weakened and the physical deterioration that will set in will be a source of great anxiety to the State and the people at large. At the same time I cannot view with equanimity the measures taken for the purpose of procurement in the Punjab. I feel that if the procurement is continued in the way in which it has been stated in this House and people are not allowed to keep their rations on the basis of 2 lbs. a day even, the result will be riots. If these poor people consumed anything else also and the ration was proportionately cut down I could understand the justification but to cut down the

[Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava]

ration of people who eat nothing but cereals would be tyranny indeed. I submit for the consideration of the Government that this is a very serious matter and Government should see that the poor man's supply of food is not curtailed to the extent proposed.

The other necessity of the poor man is his salt. In regard to this I am extremely sorry to find that the Finance Member has not taken a realistic view. In his opinion if the salt tax is removed no great benefit will be conferred on the people. He considers it to be more a question of sentiment than a question which really affects the poor man. As a matter of fact I think that this Government is unable to appreciate to the full extent the poor man's feeling in regard to the salt tax. This question has exercised the minds of publicists from Dadhabhoy Naoroji to Mahatma Gandhi. They have all pleaded for the abolition of the salt tax. I do not agree with the Finance Member when he says that the future Finance Member will also keep this tax. I think the first thing that he will do will be to give relief to the poor man by abolishing the salt tax. In this connection I would refer you, Sir, to the letter which Mahatma Gandhi wrote to Lord Irwin at the time of the salt satyagraha: He said:

"Even the salt he must use to live is so taxed as to make the burden fall heaviest on him, if only because of the heartless impartiality of its incidence. The tax shows itself still more burdensome on the poor man when it is remembered that salt is the one thing he must eat more than the rich man, both individually and collectively."

Further on in another letter he said:

"I regard this tax to be the most iniquitous of all from the poor man's standpoint. As the independence movement is essential for the poorest in the land, the beginning will be made with this evil. The wonder is that we have submitted to the cruel monopoly for so long."

I do not want to take more of the time of the House regarding the salt tax, because it is likely when the clauses are being considered we may have much to say upon it.

Now I come to the poor man's cloth. The only clothes a poor man uses are one kamri and one dhoty and I do not think he gets them cheaper now than before, nor is he likely to get them cheaper either this year or in the future.

As regards housing, the Honourable the Finance Member has said that the building programme will be proceeded with and that it would give employment to the poor people. He has gone further and sought to give relief to the tax-payer by exempting the income from new houses from tax in the two coming years. I feel that the advantages sought to be conferred are quite illusory. There is no cement, no timber, no girders, and no bricks available. The value of bricks is about seven times their pre-war price. The other materials are also not available. Unless and until the Finance Member makes all these materials available in the country there can be no housing programme possible.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): There are 30 crores of bricks for sale in Delhi.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Can these Delhi bricks be transported to the rural areas? Are there any pucca houses in the rural areas? If there is cement or brick in Delhi how will it help the other parts of India? If you want to give a concession make it real. It is quite easy to give the concession orally but unless the necessary building material is made available in all parts of the country. Such concession is of no practical value.

There is one particular complaint of the poor people which I want to bring to the notice of the House and that is about *Begar*. This *begar* system, impressment or compulsory work without payment is a feature of which every country or government should be ashamed. *Begar* is still taken in the rural

areas. There is a section in the Penal Code, relating to it, *viz.*, section 372, but no case has ever been chalaaned under this section. Petty village officials, a *patwari*, *Thanedar*, *Lambardar* or other officials, whenever they go to the villages, take compulsory labour from poor people. This practice is still going on and steps should be taken to stop this practice.

As time is very short, I shall now deal with what can be done for the poor man in regard to both direct as well as indirect taxation. The first point I would suggest is that the disability be taken away from members of depressed classes and they may be included in the category of members of the agricultural classes so that they may be able to purchase land from agriculturists and other people. The second point I would urge is that they should be allowed to erect houses—*pucca* houses—and dig wells when these people consider the same to be feasible. At present the poor people cannot dig a well for their water because they cannot find the land. There again, Sir, *begar* should be stopped. In my humble opinion, as a sort of relief in direct taxation, the land revenue of all lands less than five *beghas* should not be charged from the poor people at all. This is the sort of relief that can be given. And then, salt tax should be abolished. Cheap shops for grain should be opened at least in famine days. The poor man, landless labourer or tenant at mill is both a producer and a consumer—a purchasing consumer. When he produces grain, he has to part with them, because he is not economically strong enough, at rates which are not profitable to him. And when he has to buy his food in the market he has to pay a good price. Relief should be brought to him by provision of cheap grain shops for at least the period of famine.

As regards industrialisation I would prefer that the factories should be so arranged and that we get factories on the lines of the Japanese system so that the poor man, when he is free, from agricultural pursuits, may be able to go and find employment there. I would submit that the fees for grazing his cattle should not be charged. These are small things which can be done by the Government to relieve the poor man if they have got imagination and sympathy.

As regards services and education, for them, the House fully knows that he is the most illiterate among the classes living in India. Many questions are asked about Muslims, Sikhs and other persons, but nobody takes care to see that the members of the depressed classes are given their due share of services. So far as these classes are concerned I would submit that they should be given the first preference and priority and for at least five years all the posts which can be held by these poor people should be given to them ignoring the claims of all other communities. Unless and until these people come up to the proper standard, *swaraj* will have no meaning in India. When I visualize that the expenditure of Rs. 600 crores will be contracted in the coming year and famine days are in prospect, I do feel that the future is very gloomy for the poor people. In fact, when I look to the proposed industrialisation of the country which is expected to bring relief to the poor man, I am reminded of the Persian proverb which says:

Mar Guzeeda Murda Bawad',
"Ta' Tiryay Az Iraq Awards Showad"

That is, by the time the antidote is brought from Iraq, the snake-bitten person may die. By the time that you get industrialisation the poor man shall die. How is this industrialisation to take place. We are told by the Honourable the Finance Member that the machines are not available and the technical skill is not available, and so it will take a very long time. I would only submit that so far as the poor man is concerned, efforts should be made to relieve him in the manner I have indicated as soon as possible.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): There are only three points which have emerged out of the discussions to which I have to reply: the first about our salt policy, the second about shipping and the third about hide and skin.

[Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque.]

Now, Sir, as regards salt, it has been suggested—in fact I was a bit worried as to whether the speaker who was referring to it really meant or not that not only Port Said but also Aden salt should be altogether prohibited. I was not quite clear what he meant. But I should make this position known to the House that the Aden manufacturers are all Indian manufacturers. They are not manufacturers who have come from other parts of the world but they are men who have gone there from India.

Mr. M. B. Masani (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Not all, but only partly.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Mostly. Very little of outside men are there. This Aden salt for many many years had the main market in Bengal. They were very hard hit during the war. In fact, if there was any one who was most hard hit in that part during the war, it was the Aden manufacturers and the Aden workers.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): They made a lot of money.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know. And I do not know whether I should not include some one else also within such category. I should say that they were very hard hit, and owing to difficult shipping position they had practically no supply of ships. We have therefore allotted four ships to Aden. That is so far as Aden is concerned. So far as the Port Said salt position was concerned, the situation developed in a manner which was utterly beyond our control. I think my friends sometimes completely forget past history. If they remember even an iota of historical facts they will remember that there was a terrible salt famine in Bengal in 1942 and 1943, and in a very large part round about. At that time we were desperately trying to get salt from anywhere—Port Said, Aden, and West Coast. Sir, unfortunately due to circumstances over which we had no control whatsoever, shipping was not available to the extent that it could otherwise be available to get salt from either Aden or from the West Coast. At the same time a very large number of military ships were available—it was necessary that they should have some ballast—and they were prepared to take any quantity of Port Said salt as ballast for their ships. Having regard to the salt famine in Bengal and round about, we thought it absolutely essential that that salt should be filled in as ballast in those ships. That is why these ships had the salt brought from Port Said which relieved the salt situation in India.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province: General): Why was no attempt made to get salt from the Frontier Province?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: It would have been possible if the Frontier had some rivers which could carry salt to Bengal. But unfortunately the transport position is such that I cannot knock my head against the hard-hearted Frontier gentleman who just now spoke.

Sir, throughout 1945, the policy of the Government of Bengal, as also of the Food Department of the Government of India, was that at any cost there should be no recurrence of another salt famine. At that time nobody could see as to when the Japanese war would end, and by every report it was understood that the shipping position would be more and more difficult in later months of the year. Much against our own wish the Government of Bengal suggested very emphatically and strongly that they should build up a stock of salt. Not only did they do that. They suggested that so long as salt was available, any quantity should be brought to Bengal from Port Said if salt was available there and if ships could be found which would take salt as their ballast. In fact it was due to their suggestion, much against our own personal wish in the matter, that 85,000 tons of salt came from Port Said in the first half, and another 85,000 tons in the second half of 1945. That was an

insurance against future difficulties in Bengal. Every insurance does not work in the way it is intended. As events turned out, the position was that the war with Japan was over. Having done all we could, we came to the other extreme. Bengal had got so much salt by that time that they were not prepared to take any more salt. That was the circumstance that was facing us in 1946. And the House will know that we have for the time being—at least for the next six months—stopped altogether any salt coming from Port Said to India. We have at present nine ships, some of which will touch Aden and we have allowed four ships to Aden for the next six months and five ships to West Coast ports. That is the exact reason why we have allotted the ships as between Aden and the West Coast. We are quite anxious to develop West Coast; but I should like members to remember that in this matter of salt it is a question of persons' wish or liking. There are people in certain areas of India who would like to consume a certain type and we cannot stop them, because we do not export or prevent people from bringing it; we have to give permission for the time being. So far as the West Coast is concerned, I can quite understand that they have expanded rapidly during the war and they can now serve a large part of India; and in giving these five ships, their case was carefully considered and I can assure Honourable Members of this House that the claims of the West Coast ports for salt transport from West Coast to other ports in India are being very carefully looked into; but the immediate arrangement is only a temporary make-shift arrangement and a short term policy and the whole question will have to be reviewed as soon as the Bengal position eases itself, and it is possible to get more salt into Bengal . . .

M. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will five ships suffice? Why not increase ships for 17 West Coast Salt Works and reduce out of 4 ships allotted for Aden?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have to consider not merely the bringing of the salt, but also ships which might be available to touch these ports. I hope my friend will also remember that the West Coast has the rest of India to supply—in fact my friend's own district in Bombay, and Madras coast and the Frontier province—you cannot possibly expect that all ships which will go to Bengal must all be given to the West Coast or Aden; but in any case I am quite prepared to have the matter considered, subject to the fact that whether I will be here or somebody else is a matter over which I have no control for the time being.

As regards the shipping position, it is this: we have been for some time trying our best to make it known to H.M.G. that in so far as India is concerned we should get first preference in any shipping acquisition from the United Kingdom; and we have been successful to the extent that we have been assured that in the matter of new shipping India will have first preference. We have succeeded there. And in so far as shipping from the United States is concerned, the position is not quite clear to us. First of all, the United States legislation about ships which will be sold by the United States to non-United States bodies is not yet quite clear. Some companies have tried their best to getting shipping from the United States and Canada and they found that it will be ultimately better for them from the point of view of financial liability and other matters to get ships from the United Kingdom rather than from the United States. Having regard to this position, we cannot proceed further in the matter. As regards the question of future policy, we have appointed a committee some time before; and I may say this policy committee was presided over by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer and the members of the committee were Mr. Neogy, Mr. Master, Sir Halim Ghuznavi and Mr. Radcliffe; and that committee a few weeks ago has sent a preliminary report of their recommendations. We are considering the matter; but I think it will be realised that the future of shipping is ultimately dependant upon the extent

[Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque.]

to which India can get a share of the world's trade of the future. It is no use developing and having ships, unless you are able to get a certain amount of freight and goods and passenger traffic, which is now taken by other ships of the world; and that question of adjustment is a matter which has yet to be settled before the shipping policy can be further developed. In any case I can assure Honourable Members that we have taken every possible step to ensure the interests of India, and we have made our views clear to H.M.G. Our representatives in trade and other representatives who have gone there are carefully watching the situation. We will take the earliest opportunity which will be offered to us.

As regards hides and skins, references were made to it. I can only say generally that having regard to the economic sanctions which will be imposed against South Africa very soon, and against the import of wattle bark, and also having regard to the world situation today, we are quite prepared to allow free export of hides and skins as soon as possible, and then to watch the situation for a few months as to what extent it may or may not really affect the position in India. We do not want to lose control over it. If we find that at any stage the Indian tanners are not able to get enough material within the country, we will have to step in and intervene, because while we are quite anxious that the interests of hides and skins merchants should not suffer, at the same time Indian development of manufacturing in this country should not also suffer. Our impression is that having regard to the new factor that has come in, namely, the likely stoppage of the import of wattle bark, the volume of hide and skin will possibly be much more than India can absorb for the time being; that is our estimate for the present.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Raw hides and skins trade should not be destroyed.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: In any case I have supplied an argument which was not supplied by my friends the other day; we have decided to take our courage in both hands, and allow this thing to go abroad, subject to this over-riding factor that if at any stage we find that the Indian manufacturer is in any way hard hit by the export of a quantity which should not be exported or that he is not having enough materials for his manufacture, we must step in. . . .

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: But something else may happen in the meantime!

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: No one can say what may happen from time to time; but we have to guard against any eventuality; whether that eventuality is to be faced by me or by yourself, I do not know. But I think I will be guilty ultimately if I did not take all steps with a view to guarantee against that.

That is all I have got to say and I hope Honourable Members will realise that we are trying to do all we can in the matter of salt and of hides and skins.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not want to repeat what has been stated already by a number of speakers here. I shall simply mention one or two things as I wish to give my support on these vital questions, to which I shall make a reference.

As far as Excess Profits Tax is concerned, I would support Honourable members who have spoken already, that it should not have been abolished but should have existed this year, because the circumstances prevalent in the country are such that it was not quite wise to abolish this tax. As long as we find that people are benefiting by the excessive prices which are prevailing in the country, on account of the war, and are making abnormal profits, which they would not have done otherwise, it is only right that they should be taxed. I have been a believer always in one principle, and I want to press it again.

as I did in the past, that there should be a minimum income which should not be taxed at all

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-official): May I ask one question? When the Honourable Member said that those who made profits in the war should be made to pay, does he include those owners of land who have made great profits due to the war?

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: If the Honourable Member comes in that category. I think he should be made to pay. There should be a minimum, which the Government has put down now at Rs. 1,500; formerly the exemption was up to Rs. 2,000. Now Rs. 2,000 pre-war are equal to about Rs. 8,000 at least of the present day. People who used to get the work done for Rs. 2,000 cannot get the same work done for less than Rs. 8,000 now because prices have gone up four times but the Honourable Member has come down from Rs. 2,000 to 1,500 and this lowering of scale for exemption in the case of people with unearned income is very hard. I do not agree that there should be any distinction between earned and unearned income if it goes up to a certain limit which can give bare living conditions. If a man is getting Rs. 2,000 now, this means he is getting really Rs. 500 of the pre-war time. A man who is earning a pension or a widow who has been left some property and who depends upon that income to educate the children should not be taxed. They come under the category of unearned income. At the same time I am a believer in this—that people should not be allowed to accumulate lot of wealth, earn and keep to themselves beyond a certain limit. There should be prescribed a limit for the people to retain that money. If a limit whatever it may be, it may be the salary of an Executive Councillor or it may be something more—I do not mind it if you put it at a lakh of rupees—whatever it is, beyond it nobody should be allowed to keep to himself the amount of income to accumulate. That money must go to the State. I do not want to take his capital away either in his life time or when he dies. He leaves it to the children and each will be entitled to the maximum income. One man enjoys huge profits and accumulates wealth. He stops many other people from making profits or going into business because he wants to crush the small workers by his wealth, by ousting them in his own manner and I think that the State must get all the money which a man earns beyond that limit. This will be conducive to very healthy conditions in this country and it will distribute the wealth properly and the people who are very poor will not suffer on account of the excessively wealthy people hoarding wealth. They should be given some relief in preference to those who can afford to pay.

I do not want to touch on questions relating to kerosene oil and betel nuts because they have been dealt with and I hope that the Honourable Member has learnt by now that there is a general desire against these two things, first of all against any taxation on betel nuts. He knows very well that the duty on kerosene should be substantially reduced in order to provide the poor people with more and cheap oil.

Unfortunately I do not find here any gentleman concerned with the Education Department. I had given due notice to the Government that I am going to refer to that Department but if the Honourable member only wants to read my speech and not take any note and not reply, I do not mind. But I must bring to the notice of the House the step-motherly treatment which the Aligarh University is receiving. I am the elected representative of the University in this House and I want to speak on their behalf and on behalf of my constituents. Being a member of the Executive Council and of the Court of the University, I can speak with authority and knowledge as a member of those bodies. The treatment which the Government has always meted out to the Aligarh Muslim University has been step-motherly. This huge file in my hand which is circulated to me had been sent to the Government. This involved lot of labour and has given good information on which the Government could act. The Muslim University is not a university meant for one

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community only, in spite of its name. It is open to all communities and students of non-Muslim communities get the same facilities as the Muslim community students. There is no distinction made and no preference is given to a Muslim student as such. A Hindu or a Christian can come in and have the same advantages as a Muslim student. The University depends entirely on the Government grant and the subscriptions which they can get from private people to meet the needs of education. I find that the Delhi University, of the Court of which I have also the honour to be a member, gets much better treatment from the Government, while the Aligarh University is ignored. I know there is a powerful gentleman who is the Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University and he can get whatever he wants. Though the Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh University is no less powerful, he is less powerful so far as the Government is concerned. He cannot get what he wants. The Delhi University has got power, because of the two John brothers who carried the Delhi University Bill debate in this House. Unfortunately one of them has left the House and has gone. They ignored all the feelings of the Muslims and the divisions took place on every clause. They sent the Muslim League Party to the Lobby at least a hundred times on one small Bill. We were only 12 or 14 people fighting against great odds and those people who were fighting on the side of the Delhi University Bill were afterwards convinced that they were fighting for the wrong side. That treatment is still kept up so far as the Aligarh University is concerned. It is a matter of disgrace that no Muslim student of U.P. got any admission into any of the Medical colleges. If he goes to Lahore, they say, 'you are not a Punjabi', if he goes to Lucknow, the rules are made in such a way that out of 40 applicants in a year, only one has been admitted. This opened the eyes of the Muslim public and they collected 60 lakhs for opening a Medical College.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-official): I may inform my Honourable friend that so far as the Agra University is concerned, they are welcome.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: But actually how many have been admitted? I can tell my Honourable friend that the rules are so interpreted that practically no Muslim student gets admission. He ought to be ashamed of that.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: We are only administering the rules framed by U.P. Government.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: What does that mean? Government means the Vice-Chancellor and that is the Honourable Member himself. I can say that no Muslim boy can easily be admitted into the Agra College. Students are rejected on the most flimsy grounds. My Honourable friend advocated the other day that students should be admitted on merits. I know how this question of merit is manipulated. What he considers merits may be otherwise from my point of view.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: May I point out that admission to the Agra Medical College is not in my hands and admission is regulated by communal quota determined by the U. P. Government and not by the Vice-Chancellor.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: The Honourable Member may be all right and may be sympathetic as far as he is concerned. I can inform the House that I recommended brilliant students—B.Sc., and M.Sc.,—for admission to Lucknow Medical College and none was admitted. I fought for them without any results. During the last six or seven years only three or four students were admitted into the Lucknow Medical College, though the college is maintained from taxes paid by the public. The doors of the college are closed against Muslims, the rules are made in such a way that Muslims do not get admission and the Education Department sits tight over this. No notice is taken of our grievances. Even when we come for grants, after collecting cur-

own subscriptions to educate our young boys, even then the Government shuts the door on us. That is my grievance against the Education Department against their unsympathetic attitude towards boys from Aligarh. I take strong exception to the treatment given to our boys. We drew up a five year plan and put it before the Government, but no reply was received. I challenge any Member of the Government whether he has read all the materials placed in this file about the Aligarh University scheme. I am glad to see my Honourable friend Sir John Sargent coming to the House. This is the way in which we are treated and yet the Government want our support for the Finance Bill. Is that the proper way of seeking our help? They must be careful, they must show proper treatment towards us. We are honest people, if you respect us, we will respect you not once, but three times. On the other hand, if you slight us once, we will slight you thrice. That is how I look at it. I want to know that out of this five year's programme how much money has been sanctioned to the University? The teachers are getting ridiculous salary. It is a disgrace to find highly educated people, with doctorate qualification of European Universities, getting only a salary of Rs. 125. How can any one live on Rs. 125 a month. The Government have taken no notice of the high prices, four or five times in the whole country. Even to the menial servants, the Government is paying twice or thrice of what they used to get and in the case of these teachers, they cannot have even one full meal a day on their present salary. The Education Department ought to be ashamed of their indifference in these matters. The Education Department should wake up and discharge their responsibilities in educating the people of this country. Education must be the first and primary concern of the Government of India. If proper education is not given to the people, the result will be complete ignorance in the country. We will have illiterate people, as they are now. I hope the Honourable Member concerned will take notice of this and will give proper facilities and proper grants to Universities. There are only three Universities which are the concern of the Central Government—the Benares University, the Aligarh University and the Delhi University. These are the three Universities which are dependent on the Government of India for grants. They are not the concern of the Local Governments. In Aligarh University we get boys from the whole of India and also from abroad. It is the duty of the Government to see that the Aligarh University is equipped properly so that it can impart education in all branches, technical etc. There is no use of turning out graduates or undergraduates who are fit only to be employed as clerks in the Government of India. The University must produce efficient technicians. Where is the technical college which can take up this work? I have no time to go into details. The Honourable Member must visit the University. The other day the Labour Member said that on account of lack of education, they closed the doors, they closed the technical classes in the Aligarh, University. I wrote a letter to the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour Department to keep the classes open, but he refused. This is the way in which we are treated and then the Government gets up and asks our co-operation without giving us any response. But where is the response?

The response does not come from the Government side.

Before I conclude, I wish to refer to rationing in Delhi and other areas. I have got a newspaper cutting sent to me by the people in Delhi. This shows the hopeless condition in which rationing is conducted here. I think those of us, Members of the Legislative Assembly who come to Delhi ought to be allowed to bring our own rations from the Provinces. And we should receive no rations in Delhi. This shows that 27,000 bags of rice were condemned as unfit for human consumption because they had been allowed to rot and later by some hook or crook methods they were repurchased and mixed up with good rice and given as our rations. No wonder if diseases break out. If this goes on in Delhi at least we who come from outside should be allowed to bring our own rations. I do not know how far it is true—

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I cannot vouch for the truth of this—but it has appeared in the press; and if

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it is wrong the Deputy Commissioner and Chief Commissioner can take notice of it, and if it is right they must rectify it and see that things which are unfit for human consumption are not offered as rations. These back-door methods must not exist.

Sir, I will not take any more time, though I have still some other points to make, and I will conclude.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we have opposed the motion that the Finance Bill be taken into consideration. Before I come to the main reasons which have prompted us to do so, I should like to point out briefly what the general masses of people in this country would have liked to see in the budget that has been presented to us. Besides that, the budget fails to tackle the crying needs of this country. Then, finally come the other considerations—political considerations—which preclude us from taking any other course but to refuse to take this Bill into consideration. The items in the budget which we would have liked to see abolished or modified are many. There is the salt tax, there are the postal rates, there are the duties on kerosene, on tobacco, on betelnuts, on bullion and on silver, and there is the income-tax in the lower stages, where the Finance Member who is laughing, does not seem to have remembered the fact that the price-index in the country has gone up by three hundred per cent, and that still the lower limit up to which he leaves the poor people's income untaxed has remained practically the same. But, Sir, all these points have been covered by my other Honourable friends. Much, therefore, though I should have liked to go into each one of them I shall content myself with the fact that they have already been touched upon and that our viewpoint on them has been brought before the House.

Sir, the other feature, namely, the omissions in the budget are even more important. The very crying needs of the country have not been provided for. Practically every sphere of our national life needed careful fostering and help. Nothing has been done there. Let us take them one by one.

First we will take education. Education has its own importance in the life of any people. After nearly two hundred years of British rule in India, the percentage of literacy according to the Sargent report is not more than 14.6. Possibly, that is a liberal figure; but even taking it as correct, is it not a matter of shame for any Government responsible for the administration of any country that there should be 86 per cent, of its population which should not be able to read even the elementary alphabets? But, I take the fact that it is so, and then I ask why the Finance Member has not considered this matter of sufficient importance to make a provision in his budget to fight this curse of illiteracy. I do not find any provision about this. Then there are the other sections of Education. There is basic education, there is primary education, there is secondary education, there are high schools, there are intermediate colleges, there are the universities and then above all there is Research. What provision have you made for all these? In England—I again take the figure from the Sargent report—the expenditure for education per head of the population, before the war was Rs. 35-2-0; in India it appears to be not more than two and a half annas per head taking an average of all the provinces also.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is the Honourable Member talking of the Government of India or the Provincial Governments?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I am glad my friend the Honourable the gallant Knight has raised that question. We know that education as such is a subject for the provinces to deal with. But we also know that there is an Education Department here at the centre and there is large-scale planning and development, and that the scheme of education propounded by the Advisory Board of Education and put forward by the Government of India is part and parcel of this reconstruction scheme. We also know that there is nothing in the Act of 1935 or in the Act of 1919 to preclude the Government of India from making

such provision as they think fit in their budget for education over and above what the provinces may do. The provinces, Sir, may be doing what they ought to do, or they may not be doing what they ought to do. Today we are here to discuss and to consider what the Government of India propose to do in this Budget. Therefore, to come back to the point which I was dealing with notwithstanding our present ridiculously low figure of about 2½ annas, *per capita* expenditure over education practically no provision has been made in this Budget for any one of these important stages of education.

Sir, the Sargent Report has mentioned the expenditure which will be involved in working its scheme. It has put down ten crores annual expenditure as the figure which is likely to be reached after five years, and after forty years, if I am not mistaken, it has put down the figure of 312 crores as the annual expenditure. Has the Honourable the Finance Member able to make provision for even a humble beginning in that direction?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir. Read the Budget.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I should be very happy to be corrected, instructed, and helped. But I have read the provisions that have been made there, and I shall soon come to them, or at any rate to some of them and we shall then see if that is what can satisfy the needs of the people.

Then, Sir, there is Research. Higher Research is the foundation for progress and advance. No country can develop or make any progress in any direction without the aid of higher research. We have a small Board of Industrial and Scientific Research which is doing good work, but even that has a very limited scope and then higher pure research, research in the realm of pure science which would lift the standard of education in the country, is nowhere to be found.

Sir, it is true that the Budget makes a provision of 2½ lakhs of rupees for opening a separate college for scheduled castes in Bombay. I am amazed at that provision. I do not know why it should have been made. Not one of us in this country, not one among the Hindus, would be found unwilling to provide not only the two-and-a-half lakhs but much more for the purpose of providing the utmost facility to our scheduled caste brothers and sisters for receiving the very best and highest education possible. The Hindus have during the last two decades done whatever was possible and desirable, and should have liked to do even much more and will continue to do much more for the amelioration, and for the uplift of that submerged section of their community, but, Sir, I ask is this provision of 2½ lakhs made to sow another seed of poison in the body politic of this country.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural): A separate college for scheduled castes.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Who does not know the unfortunate day when the command performance of the Agha Khan deputation asked for separate electorates? I am not in the least desirous of hurting anybody's feelings, but, Sir, on account of that pernicious seed having been sown two brothers, who had lived in this country in amity and good-will for centuries, have been made to fly at each other's throat and the wind which was then sown has resulted in a whirlwind. Sir, is it sought to create another similar division in the body politic of this country? Have those 2½ lakhs been provided for this purpose? I hope, Sir, that the Government will not be misled. The depressed classes have realized and appreciated what the Congress and the Hindus have been doing for them. Look at the last elections. A challenge was thrown by my Honourable friend, the depressed class Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, saying that in the elections they would win every seat. Have they been able to do so?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: What about the primary elections?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Primary elections also have their own story to tell. If you will take the total number of seats in which those primary elections were held, and if you will work out the percentage. . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Give me the figures.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I have not got them here, but I shall be very glad to go into them with the Honourable the Finance Member.

Mr. President: Order, order. The point may be pursued after Lunch. But before the House adjourns, the Honourable the Law Member will present his report.

THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY AND SUCCESSION (AMENDMENT) (BILL)

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the Hindu Disposition of Property Act, 1916, and the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

Mr. President: The House will now adjourn till 2-30 P.M.

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

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

INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President: I may remind Honourable Members that we are having an adjournment motion to-day at 4 o'clock, unless it is withdrawn. But I do not know about it. There are a large number of speakers to be put through. So will Honourable Members curtail their remarks as much as possible?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Sir, resuming where I was before we adjourned, I hope, Sir, the Government will see the mischief that is sure to arise as a result of the cutting up of Hindu society into smaller parcels. I hope the provision which has been made for a separate college at Bombay for our Scheduled Caste brethren will not be persisted in and that, instead, not only that amount of Rs. 2½ lakhs but much more will be set apart and utilised for the purpose of helping men and women from that community to have the benefits of the highest and the best education possible in the country.

Sir, what you have said just now regarding the shortness of the time at our disposal, I beg to submit, is rather a difficult thing, because, I understood that during discussion on the Finance Bill people always had the opportunity to speak and to express their viewpoints without any restriction and in as full a manner as they thought necessary; but, Sir, having said that much, I will submit to the remarks that you have been pleased to make. I will therefore only just touch in passing some of the other points which I wish to raise.

I will start with food. It is a terrible problem which is staring this country in the face. The Government have cried themselves hoarse during the past few months in making the world believe that we are now on the brink of extinction. But, Sir, I ask, what does this budget do in that connection? Why did not they make it an item of priority No. 1 and provide for the funds to subsidize the sale of foodgrains in this country at a lower price, so that the poor man may be able somehow to keep body and soul together. Sir, I have not the time here to go into detailed figures. I have a recollection that the great and noble erudite Servant of India, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, mentioned the figure last year that at least 40 per cent. of the people of this country were unable to purchase foodgrains for themselves at the prices which the Government had fixed. I say, Sir, it is an unpardonable omission that nothing has been done in that direction. I should have liked to go deeper into this food question and to show how by their own action and lethargy and incompetence this Government has created more panic in this matter than there

should have been and has made a mess of this food problem, and how a National Government could still tackle this problem successfully and well. But, Sir, as there is no time I shall leave it at what I have said and shall move on to other things, after just referring to one point in that connection. We have read in the newspapers that foodgrains which will be sent to India will mean a further cut down in the rations in Germany and Japan. I want to put it down on record on behalf of the people of this country, Sir, that we do not wish to make the people of any other country starve for us. We should like to have imports, but only from surplus areas. We should like to increase our foodgrain production. We should like to do all that may be possible. But we would not like it at all that Germany or Japan or any other country in the world should be made to starve and their diet, which is already a semi-starvation diet, should be reduced further in order that we may have the needed extra foodgrains. I shall leave it there.

The next point that I wish to refer to, Sir, is public health. We have read only this morning in the papers of the stupendous scheme which England is putting through its Parliament for maintaining the health of the people in England. Nobody, it is said, will have to pay for a doctor or treatment there unless he wants to. We know what the financial condition of England today is and yet if England can do so and can contemplate an expenditure of staggering figures, why should not the Finance Member, in spite of the very valuable report which the Bhoré Committee has submitted, make a start in that direction. I shall again leave the matter there.

I shall next come to social security. I have got here before me the Beveridge Plan as it has been enforced in England. At what a staggering cost they are providing social security to their people, as is said, "from the cradle to the grave". Fifty-four *per cent.* of the cost of that scheme at present, and eventually sixty-five *per cent.* of it, are going to be met out of public revenues. I know we cannot afford to have anything like that here at the moment, but cannot we make some move in that direction, Sir? But I must pass on.

My esteemed and Honourable elder friend, Mr. Neogy, has already, in his own inimitable way, referred to the various economic and monetary and financial problems which deeply affect us. If I had the time I too should have liked to go into some of them. There is, Sir, the 1/6 rupee ratio which you know, was forced upon this country in the teeth of almost the unanimous opposition of every elected member of this Assembly but which is still continued. We have, Sir, the new unnecessary decimal currency bill which has been introduced in this House sometime ago. There are the questions of the setting up of industries and of planning and development. I should have liked to go into all that. But there is no time. I shall therefore, Sir, content myself by saying that we are in a most difficult position, sitting here as representatives of the country, to decide as to what to think of this budget which has been praised so much. There is, Sir, the Broadcasting Department, which in spite of the huge cut of 93 lakhs which has been made by this House has still a vast sum voted for it. Sir, that Department is jeopardising the entire cultural well being of this country. I wish to refer to the policy of Hindustani which the All-India Radio has been following, and I speak, Sir, not only on behalf of those who are devotees of Hindi, but if you will permit me, Sir, on behalf of those of my brethren also who are devotees of Urdu. My submission is, Sir, that the All-India Radio is ruining, is cutting at the root both of Hindi and Urdu literature and language in this country. This Hindustani which they are now putting forward is neither one nor the other, and so far as Hindi, Sir, is concerned, it is the most outrageous thing conceivable. I have here before me a circular which that Department issued and which my Honourable friend, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma read during the course of his presidential address to the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan in Delhi the other day. It was a circular letter of the Director General of Broadcasting to all Station Directors Memorandum PZ 1/43 from Controller of Broadcasting

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to S. D., All-India Radio, Delhi, Lahore, Lucknow, Peshawar and Calcutta.
It reads:

"In Hindustani announcements from your station 'Majlis' and not 'Sabha' should be used for transmission.

There was a discussion with Honourable Member yesterday and it was decided as follows:

For Isthmus use 'Khaqnai' and 'Abnai' in place of 'Jalghati' and 'Thalghati'."

It says that for 'welcome' 'Istaqbal' should be used and 'swagat' should be discontinued. It orders that the words 'Gyan', 'Vidyarthi', 'Deshbakt', 'Arthik' should be replaced by 'Ilm', 'Talib-ilm', 'Muhabbe-Watan', 'Iqtsadi' and bans the use of the words, 'Asha', 'Adar', and 'Krodh', and so on and so forth. I have not the time to read the whole of it but that clearly indicates the policy which the All-India Radio has been following, and which has been condemned by every single person, who values Hindi and wishes it well. As I said, it is not a question of Urdu versus Hindi. I want that Urdu should be developed to the fullest extent possible. I shall gladly vote for everything which may be needed to see Urdu literature, which is such a fine literature, in which we have such fine poets and scholars, developed more and more, as it has developed during the past. But, similarly, we want Hindi to develop on its own line and not be ruined by this sort of admixture Hindustani, which is nothing except high flown Arabicised Urdu. I am prepared that there should be a fixed time every day for the broadcasts in Urdu and separate fixed time everyday for the broadcasts in Hindi, so that neither of the two languages may have any complaint and neither of them may suffer in purity. It is essential for the cultural well-being of our people. Then there is the spiritual aspect of the peoples' life which is being ruined. I wish I had time to go into that but I cannot do so.

Sir, these are the various aspects of the budget which do not encourage us to vote for the Finance Bill. Sir, it has not been my intention to rake up the past of British rule in India: I am concerned with the present. The question may be asked by the Finance Member if all this has to be done, how is the expenditure to be met? My reply is very simple. India has never felt that she could afford the huge military expenditure which she has had to face in the past and which she is facing now. We can very materially cut down that expenditure and meet the expenses required for these nation-building activities. I am not saying that we should have no army, though I cannot but say that the only hope for the future of this world lies in its following the teachings of that greatest of modern teachers, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi—his sublime and infallible doctrine of non-violence, for solving its troubles. But while we believe in that non-violence we are prepared to agree that we have to have a machinery for the defence of the country. Assuming that, I still ask, where is the need of our having to spend this proportionately much higher cost of expenditure over British units, over British troops in India? I have not the time to go into the figures but Government members have given us the proportionately excessive sums we have to spend over these British units as compared with what we may have to spend on Indian units. That will be one source of saving.

May I know, Sir, how much time I have now?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has taken already 29 minutes and he has one more minute.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I shall crave your indulgence for two or three more minutes.

Mr. President: I do not mind if the time is debited to the account of his party.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: When we have done that, there is yet another way. We are about 400 millions in this country. Taking the need of our defence forces even at the present war time level which I believe is about 2½ millions; what is 2½ millions to 400 millions. It is only about half a per cent. •

I submit that if there was a national government in the country with the slightest hold over the people, one single appeal by the Government would bring to our army centres 2½ million men within the space of 24 hours. That should be sufficient to meet any emergency. We therefore need not maintain an army at this strength. Further, we should also have a reserve national militia. We can give military training to our boys in colleges during a certain stage of their life and keep them as a reserve second line of defence to be called up when needed. That could very substantially reduce the number of our standing army. We can do all that and meet the expenditure on nation building activities. And if there were still any need, we can always raise loans for such useful purposes. Has not England, battered and pauperised by the war, gone about borrowing here and there and every where to meet the national needs?

These are the needs which should have been thought of in framing the budget. But as I said, Sir, the question of merits or demerits is not very relevant. Even if we leave all this aside, there is the supervening political consideration, the greatest of all considerations, which leaves to an honourable man no course but to say that he cannot possibly vote for this bill being taken into consideration.

The Honourable the Finance Member, Sir Archibald Rowlands has undoubtedly, I am happy to say, made a new approach in presenting his budget to the House. I am happy to say that the responsive reply he made to the general discussion on the budget on the first two days was a new and welcome experience for this country. I do wish to give him my need of praise which is due to him; but that cannot change the course of duty that is clear for us. The budget has been prepared by a Government over which we have no control. An outside body foisted upon us has made this budget. We have no means of knowing its detailed provisions. We have no means of knowing how the expenditure is to be made in detail and we do not know as to how it will affect the country in the long run. The budget may be good or bad but we have had no hand in its making. How can we take the moral responsibility of voting for it. Sir, we cannot vote for a Finance Bill so long as we have not the control over the framing of it. We are the representatives of the people who pay the taxes and provide the revenues and yet we are debarred from knowing how the money will be expended. In these circumstances we cannot have any other course but to say that we reject the motion for the consideration of this Bill.

We have, Sir, our pledge of Independence. If I had the time I would read it before this House. We take that pledge on the 26th January year after year. So long as that pledge stands, so long as we are not independent, so long as we have not got in this country a Government of the people of this country we cannot vote for the Finance Bill.

Sir, we are aware of the changed circumstances which exist today. We are aware that next door sits the British Cabinet Mission which has come to settle up with India. We are very happy about it and on behalf of the people of this country we wish to extend our welcome to them and wish them Godspeed in their work. We pray to God to vouchsafe to them and to us all the wisdom and the sagacity, the humility and the earnestness, the far sight and the determination to successfully conclude the final and unreserved transference of the governance of India to the people of this country. Subject, Sir, to that overall condition of independence, we shall be quite willing to go to the utmost length possible to see that a peaceful and happy solution, unanimous and acceptable to all sections, is reached round the table. But unless that happens, and unless independence, complete national independence, is established in this country, there is no other course for us but to refuse to vote for a Finance Bill which an alien and unwanted Government has presented before us.

Sir, I have done. Twenty-two years ago, on the 17th of March 1924, standing in this very House and representing that very constituency which I have the honour to represent here today, my revered father Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya for the first time, moved the rejection of the Finance Bill which was then brought before it. He did it, Sir, in utter political disillusionment and disgust. Since then we have gone on doing it year after year. We

[Pandit Govind Malaviya]

have gone on following that course. It is a tragedy that though twenty-two years have gone and though the fiercest war known to history has come and gone and millions of lives have been lost, as it was said, for liberty and democracy, that I, his son, should still stand here today to make that same old cry in the wilderness that we should still reject this year's Finance Bill. I hope, Sir, those British Ministers sitting next door today, who are in charge of things will look to this now. England has had the reputation of doing things too late. We are sitting on the brink of a precipice. A time-bomb more powerful than probably all the atom bombs combined, seems to have been set going. The sands of time are running out. It is probably already too late. We are face to face with a terrible catastrophe in the shape of a world-wide rising in the East. I hope and pray, Sir, that those three top Cabinet Ministers of England who are here will yet be guided by the Divine Providence to rise equal to the occasion, to place India in that position of complete national sovereignty and independence from where she alone can remove the fuse in that time bomb, and by throwing it into the seas, can still save the world and lead it to peace and tranquillity, to mutual goodwill and international co-operation. Sir, I oppose the motion that the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of His Majesty's Government in India should be taken into consideration.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Posts and Air Department): During the course of the debate on the Finance Bill, references have been made to the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Civil Aviation Department. My friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad has referred to the policy relating to air transport services. I am sorry I was not in the House when he spoke but I have had the advantage of obtaining a transcript of his speech dealing with this matter. My friend, Mr. Masani, referred to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, and Mr. Nauman advocated the reduction of the post card rates. As regards the questions relating to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, I hope to have an opportunity of dealing with the matter during the consideration stage of the Bill in connection with the amendments that are to be moved. In the limited time available to me, therefore, I will confine my remarks to the question of policy regarding air transport services.

This matter was also raised during the course of the debate on the Cut Motion moved by my friend, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal. Owing to want of time I was then unable fully to deal with the matter on the occasion.

Before the war, India had generally followed the policy of developing air transport services by private enterprise. This development was, however, only to a limited extent. It is unnecessary to go deeply into the question as to why the development was slow and limited. The principal reason was the inadequacy of the funds available for the development of civil aviation in India, and like some other countries, India did not adopt the policy of heavy subsidisation of air services. What little progress had been made by the time war broke out, was held up due to the conditions created by the war, which resulted in difficulty in procuring transport aircraft and spares for existing aircraft. All man power and all resources had to be devoted to the war effort. When Government undertook the preparation of plans for the postwar development of civil aviation in India, the question as to the agency to be adopted for the operation of the services was examined with great attention and in great detail. The first question was whether Government should assume sole responsibility for and a complete monopoly of all air services. This after consideration, was rejected as being an impossible position to take, since it would mean that no individual could fly even in his own plane piloted by himself for his own purposes. The question was then considered whether the operation of air transport services, that is to say, services operated for the purpose of effecting public transport of passengers and of goods and of mails should be the monopoly of the State, leaving private flying for business or pleasure to be operated by private persons. The plan prepared by the Department examined two possible methods of operation (1) State operation, and (2) operation by private

enterprise. State operation could be by a Department of Government subject to normal financial and other controls or by a Department of Government invested with autonomous powers of financial and other control, or by a statutory autonomous monopoly corporation with capital and other finance provided from public funds or partially or wholly by the issue of interest bearing stock guaranteed by the State. If operation was to be by private enterprise, there were two alternatives (1) by a single monopolistic commercial organisation with its own capital operating under normal commercial principles of risk of loss and prospect of profit, or (2) by a limited number of companies duly licensed in this behalf. There are certain advantages as well as disadvantages in having a State monopolistic organisation as well as in operation by either a monopolistic private enterprise or by a number of private enterprises. Views have been urged that complete nationalisation means serfdom; that nationalisation means bureaucracy and bureaucracy means stagnation. I do not wish, however, to deal with this matter on an academic or theoretical basis. In our postwar plan, we detailed the different possible systems of agency for air transport and placed the matter before the Policy Committee. This Committee consisted of representatives of Departments of the Central Government, representatives of all Provincial Governments, representatives of Indian States, and a number of prominent non-officials representing persons interested in air transport. This Committee was generally of opinion that air transport services in India should be developed by private enterprise. Government themselves in arriving at a conclusion on this matter applied the following test "What method would promote the most rapid and orderly development of civil aviation in India in the conditions envisaged at the end of the war". Government as well as public opinion was anxious to see that India developed her air transport services as rapidly as possible in order to promote industrial, commercial and social development within the country, to enable India to take her proper place in international aviation and to build up a second line of reserve for India's air force. The test applied, therefore, was, as I have said, what would promote the most rapid and orderly development of air transport services in India.

If the State was to undertake the operation of all air transport services in India and to prohibit the operation of such services by any private enterprise, Government would have to undertake a very great task indeed for which considerable money and manpower would be needed. It was felt that in the event of State monopoly, the rate of development would be slowed down due to limitation of capital and recurring expenditure, and development would be subject to the fluctuating conditions of Government Finance. There would be many departments with plans for development clamouring for funds, and as air service is still regarded in some quarters as a luxury service, it was likely that civil aviation would receive a low position in the order of priority for provision of funds. Air transport is still a comparatively new service. It is developing and changing very fast. Flexibility in management and imagination in development are essential. It was not quite certain that State ownership and management would provide such flexibility and such imagination.

3 P. M. Financial and other controls are liable to be either too strict and thus prevent development, or too loose and thus promote extravagance. In a newly developing service, only the best staff must be employed and the inefficient and semi-efficient should be ruthlessly expelled. This is not always possible under State management with its strict rules for fixation of wages and conditions of employment. Government were aware that private enterprise was ready and indeed anxious to come forward with men and all the money needed and to take reasonable risks. With private enterprise, development can proceed simultaneously all over India, whereas under a monopolistic State management, services would have to be arranged in order of priority for development. India, as I have said before, had not developed civil aviation before the war and her air force had only developed during the war. It did not have therefore the necessary trained and experienced personnel and it would have had to borrow considerable personnel from outside. This would be

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much more difficult under a monopolistic State management than under private management. At the same time, Government recognised that there might be cases where for the development of essential services State ownership and management was the only possible method. There may also be cases in which it may be necessary for Government to take a financial interest in a private enterprise either with a view to assist that enterprise or with a view to control from within the enterprise. After considering all aspects, the policy which Government adopted was announced in May 1945. This policy was as follows:—

“The policy of the Government of India is generally to promote the development and operation of air transport services, internal and external, by a limited number of sound and reliable private commercial organisations with their own capital and operated under normal commercial principles. In selected cases, Government will take a financial interest, but not a controlling interest, in the companies operating the air services and appoint a director on the board. This policy does not, however, rule out the operation by the State itself of any air transport service or services in particular cases and such operation may be by the Central Government, a Provincial Government or the Government of an Indian State.”

Government were aware that a different policy had been adopted in the United Kingdom and in Canada, but they felt that the conditions in India were such that such a policy would not be suitable and would not achieve the object which they had in view, namely, the rapid development of civil aviation in India.

The decision of Government to promote the development of air transport by private enterprise does not mean that it would be unrestricted and unregulated. Government felt that control was far more important than ownership or management, the control being in the public and in the national interests. With a view to securing such power, Government brought in a Bill in the February session of the Assembly in 1944. Under this Bill, the Governor General in Council was given power to make rules “for the regulation of air transport services and the prohibition of the use of aircraft in such services except under the authority and in accordance with a licence authorising the establishment of services.” This Bill was passed by both Houses of the Legislature and became law in March 1944. Rules have accordingly been made for the establishment of a Licensing Board. Its powers and functions have been defined and the conditions under which licences will be granted have been detailed. These rules were first published with a view to obtain public criticism, were modified as a result of criticisms received, and were finally published on the 23rd January 1946. They were laid on the table of both Houses in accordance with section 5(3) of the Indian Aircraft Act and have remained for the statutory period of one month. The object of licensing is to ensure the safety and reliability of service, to eliminate uneconomic competition, to prevent exploitation of the public, to conserve and utilise the national resources and effort for the optimum benefit of the country and to promote the development and expansion of air services on orderly lines. I need not go into the details of the rules, but I would point out that the licence which is issued will provide, among others, for the following matters, namely, the places at which an aircraft may or shall land for traffic or other purposes, the conditions (weather) in which the service may be operated, the aircraft to be used, the observance of a schedule of air services approved from time to time by the Board and the maximum and minimum fares and freight rates to be charged to passengers and consignors of goods and mails. I would like to make clear here that the licence to be given would not be for an unlimited period. The rules provide that the licence shall be valid for such period not exceeding ten years as may be fixed by the Board. It is clear therefore that there is no fear of creating an unlimited vested interest. Sir, I think it is open for me to contend that when this House passed the Bill which gave power to the Governor General in Council to make rules for the regulation of air transport services and the prohibition of the use of aircraft in such services except under the authority and in accordance with a licence authorising the

establishment of the service, the House accepted in principle the operation of services by private enterprise. If all air transport services were to be operated by the State as a monopoly, there is no need for any Licensing Board, because Government do not need to grant licenses to themselves. But I do not stand on this ground. Government's contention is that the method they have adopted is the one to promote rapid and orderly development of civil aviation in India and that a State monopoly at the present time would slow down the development and probably lead to stagnation. I do not say that this should be the policy for ever. Conditions may change, but Government's contention is that this is the best policy in the existing conditions. In this connection the House will be interested if I were to read the following quotation of views relating to control of industry:

"For this purpose it will be necessary to plan and co-ordinate social advance in all its many fields, to prevent the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of individuals and groups, to prevent vested interests inimical to society from growing, and to have social control of the mineral resources, means of transport and the principal methods of production and distribution in land, industry and in other departments of national activity, so that free India may develop into a co-operative commonwealth.

The State must, therefore, own or control key and basic industries and services, mineral resources, railways, waterways, shipping and other means of public transport."

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Nominated Non-Official): Where is this quotation from?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: This is from the election manifesto issued by the Congress, and Government's policy does not seem to be in any way contrary to the policy advocated in the above quotation. As I have said before, Government feel in this matter that control is more important than either ownership or management, so long as that control is exercised in the public interest, leaving at the same time free scope for initiative and progress to private enterprise. We anticipate that private enterprise in India will show real enterprise and we feel that this policy would be in the best interests of the country. My friend, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, has referred to the case of the railways. He apparently feels that the railways under State ownership and management are more progressive and more attentive to public needs than under company management. If one were to believe half of what is said in this House in connection with the debate on the railway budget or in connection with questions asked, this would hardly appear to be the case. I do not, however, wish to go into that matter. I cannot say what the policy of future governments may be. I believe my friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad will agree with me that the policy which Government have now adopted is the best under the present conditions and in the conditions which we can anticipate in the near future and if it is so, Government are content, without going into the further question as to whether if at all or when air transport services in India should be completely nationalised.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): In the few minutes at my disposal, I propose to make a plea on behalf of the smaller minorities in India, more particularly on behalf of the Anglo Indian community in view of the momentous discussions which are now going on. There may be a tendency at a time like this, when the two main protagonists, the two huge communities in India, to occupy and to monopolise completely the political arena. And I would appeal to them and to those responsible for conducting the discussions not completely to overlook the rights of the smaller minorities in India.

Speaking for my small but important community, let me make it very clear that we heartily endorse the sentiments expressed by Pandit Malaviya. We hope, more than that we pray, that these discussions will result in India being given her rightful place among the comity of free and great nations. We, the smaller minorities, do not seek privileges or preferential treatment but we do say that we should have certain specific rights and that it would be conducive to the health and happiness and above all to the progress of the body politic in India to satisfy, as far as is reasonable, the small but important sections in India.

• Sir, on previous occasions I have given to the House briefly something about the history of my community. The time at my disposal now is too

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short to indulge in detail although it is a history which has not been, for very definite reasons, either chronicled or publicised: it is a history of which any very large community could be justly proud. But there has been and there continues to be, unfortunately, in certain sections of the peoples of India certain misunderstanding of the position and history of my community. It is felt in certain sections that we are a community which has been given privileges and preferential treatment but to those who know our history this is entirely different from the truth. It is not known—and I say this in no spirit of rancour or bitterness—that perhaps my community has been discriminated against more than any other community in India. Since the time in 1808 when Lord Valencia reported to the East India Company that the increasing wealth and number of Anglo Indians constituted a menace to British supremacy in India and that they must be crushed, the community has been exposed to a chilling round of the most bitter disabilities. We have not received privileges. We have received a few crumbs but certainly no preferential treatment. It is we who in the past have conferred certain definite privileges on the administration. In spite of our comparative smallness in number, we have in periods of crisis maintained the stability of this administration. But for our services we have never received even partial recognition and certainly no gratitude. And it is against this continuing policy of discrimination that I wish to make an emphatic protest. It is not so definite or obvious as in the days of Valencia but it is as real if more insidious today.

For instance, my community is today, a community half a million strong. But if you look at the official census figures of 1941, you will see that we have been listed there as 140,422. What is the reason for this official estimate of a community which at a conservative estimate is half a million strong? It is the result of a deliberate official policy of emasculating my community. In 1931, 15 years ago, the Census Commissioner said that the Anglo-Indians were at least 200,000 strong. 15 years since then, suddenly, a community which was accepted by him as being a virile and particularly fertile community has instead of increasing been reduced by 30 to 40 per cent. (*An Honourable Member*: Go in for early marriages). The truth is that Anglo Indians are being encouraged deliberately to practise renegadism. Anglo Indians are being encouraged to return themselves on the European electoral rolls. I have no quarrel with my European friends at all. I wish them well and I do hope that they will play a great part in the future of India. But I wish to point out that this renegadism has resulted in swelling the numbers of Europeans and bringing them inflated representation in the different provincial legislatures. I have an equal grievance against the European Association. They deliberately encourage people whom they do know not to be Europeans to join the European Association. It is their avowed policy.

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal European): Will the Honourable Member quote chapter and verse in support of his statement and prove that it is true?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I will give you one instance. I will refer to the Punjab. According to the official census figure of 1941 there were at least 6,700 Anglo Indians of whom about 5,000 are adult literates and should be on the electoral rolls. Instead of this, you find 503. And of this number 300 appear also on the European electoral rolls.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Who did it?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: You did it. You encouraged people during the war.

An Honourable Member: Address the Chair.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I was addressing the European Group, through you, Sir. The administration has encouraged this deliberately, I am sorry to say, during the war. I protested over and over again to the military authorities that their recruiting officers deliberately encouraged and even compelled Anglo Indians to register themselves as Europeans. I cited case after case. When

a boy would go to a recruiting officer and say 'I am an Anglo-Indian' the recruiting officer would say 'Go back. Think over it and come back tomorrow and enrol yourself as a European'. He went back and the next day he was recruited as a European. I say you have deliberately emasculated the community. You do it in order to inflate your electoral rolls in order to get inflated representation in the legislature.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: That is nonsense.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: It is absolutely true. You have done it over and over again and it is part of your official policy. There is no use of trying to resist my arguments by saying that this is nonsense. I can quote chapter and verse in support of my statement.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European): On a point of information.....

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am not giving way. At the beginning of the war, they had these differential scales. Europeans were given certain scales. Indian King's Commissioned Officers were given a different scale. The European K. C. O. got a different and higher scale. What was the result? Because of these differential emoluments, Anglo Indians were encouraged to make false declarations: I gave not one but scores of instances to the military authorities. One brother because he was not prepared to deny his parentage in his community got the scales of the Indian K. C. O. The other the renegade, the cheat and the liar, because he made a false declaration, was getting the higher scales of the European K. C. O. This is all part of your policy, an insidious policy of preventing a person who has the courage of his conviction, from achieving a position commensurate with his ability and thereby encouraging renegadism in my community. I can give the House scores of instances where men have been Members of Executive Council, Governors of Provinces, most famous military Commanders, who were all Anglo Indians, but they would not have been allowed to reach those positions if they called themselves Anglo Indians. They were made and encouraged to call themselves Europeans.

An Honourable Member: Define the term 'Anglo Indian'?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am glad this question has been put to me. Even the highest official does not know the definition. The Government of India Act of 1935 has defined this term. My Honourable friends of the European Group are under a misapprehension as regards the connotation of this term, Anglo Indian. A person of European descent whose parents are habitual residents in India is an Anglo Indian. If I may give an example, my Honourable European friends sitting there on the Front Benches, according to this definition, if their parents are habitual residents in India, they may claim to be of the purest European descent tracing their ancestry from the remotest Kings of England, but if their parents are habitual residents in India and they are born in this country, then they are Anglo Indians.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Don't point at me. I am a Welshman.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am not pointing at anybody. If the parents are habitual residents of this country and you are born here, then you are an Anglo Indian, whether you like it or not. My Honourable friends of the European Group want me to quote chapter and verse. In all the Government official communiques and in all Government records, they deliberately encourage people to call themselves domiciled Europeans. There are not more than 200 domiciled Europeans in the whole of India. Yet look at the official figures. What did they do during the war? We, Anglo Indians are a small community, we are proud of the part played by our community during the last war. We won V. C.'s. But the recipients were all classified as Europeans. In this war too, you denied the Anglo Indian community the credit of our achievements. In this small community, you have drawn a division. You have lumped the so called Domiciled European and the European together. I maintain that 99 per cent of the Europeans born in India and in the armed forces are Anglo Indian. Yet the Government has tried to filch the credit from us. I am sorry to have

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to address the European Group in this way, but they are morally responsible for it. They aid the Government in the continuance of this policy. They have done an irreparable injury to our community, they have fostered renegadism in this country. Why do you use this term 'Domiciled European'. The other day, one of my Honourable friends on the other side put a question as to how many Indians and how many Europeans were there in a particular Department, and the Honourable Member in charge of the Department deliberately said, there are so many Indians, so many Anglo Indians and so many Europeans. I say an Anglo Indian is an Indian by nationality. But the Government maintain this artificial division between us and other communities in India. Further why do you also continue this term 'domiciled European'? It is a misnomer. If a Pole goes and settles down in America, does he call himself a domiciled Pole? No, he becomes an American. Similarly when a European settles down in India, he must become an Indian, why does he call himself a Domiciled European?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has dealt with this point at sufficient length. He will take up other points, because his time is being taken up only by this point.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: This is the most important point and that is why I have taken up so much of the time. I do wish to be allowed some more time if necessary to elaborate this point. As I was saying, Sir, why should people from my community be asked to classify themselves as 'Domiciled Europeans'. I admit that we have had renegades in the past. Thank God owing to the policy pursued by my predecessor in office and myself, ninety nine per cent. of my community today are proud to call themselves Indians. But as a result of this official policy pursued by the Government and by the European Group, you tempt some of the Anglo Indians to become renegades. Why do you continue to use this term 'Domiciled European'?

There is another aspect which I should like to point out to the members of the European Group. A domiciled European is not a native of India. Yet you encourage an Anglo Indian to return himself as Domiciled European and thereby deliberately encourage him to commit economic *hara kiri*. Because it is very likely and probable that an Indian Government will exclude Domiciled Europeans from employment in this country, as they are not natives of India. You deliberately encourage the people of my community to call themselves Domiciled Europeans without making them realise the implications of such a step.

An Honourable Member: No, no.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: You have deliberately done it over and over again.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member's time is over.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I wish to be given ten minutes more, Sir.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will have to finish in five minutes.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: There was this renegade complex in the past. I do not apologise for it. There were these reasons. We have through our schools contributed vitally to the national assets of this country. I hope this will be appreciated by all sections of people in this country. We have given to India through our schools a system of education which other schools have nothing to offer by way of comparison. But I have been a bitter critic of the psychology of these schools till now. The European has hitherto controlled the education in these schools. My community has been made to look away from India. But, thank God, we are slowly bringing back these schools into the control of Anglo Indians. I hope, Sir, my Honourable friends of the European Group do not feel aggrieved at what I have said. It is entirely the result of their own policy, that you have so few friends in India, who will tell you the truth. I say to the European, in all sincerity, that we, the Anglo Indian community after all, are able to understand the European better than any other community in India. We understand also the people of India better than

any European could ever hope to do. It is very difficult for me to make a European appreciate this point. It is because the European has sealed himself off in a highly insulated social system that he is unable to get to understand the real feeling and emotions of Indians. A European may serve in this country for 30 years or 35 years, he may give the best years of his life, he may have put in selfless service to the cause of Indians in this country, yet I say that 99 per cent. of the Europeans in this country, after having put a long and even brilliant career of service, fail completely to understand the people of this country. There is this psychological view. You do not understand the peoples of this country. If you had willed it, you could have allowed us to fill that void. If we talk to a European about the bitterness of India in the matter of racial discrimination, he simply does not understand this. There is this bitterness in the country against the Europeans. We, Anglo Indians, feel it as much as any other community in India. This growing bitterness on account of racial discrimination, you do not understand. The reason is not far to seek. A Britisher in his own country, is perhaps the finest European in the world. But what happens to him the moment he crosses the Suez canal? I don't know. I feel that the main causes of bitterness in this country are social causes. Yes, this country has a natural right to govern her own destinies. But the causes for this misunderstanding are bitterness, which no one deplotes more than I do. These causes are mainly social. The Europeans have no social contacts with the people of this country. The European women, unfortunately, have done a criminal disservice to their own people in England.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member's time is over.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: May I have five minutes more?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member already had five minutes.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am coming to the most important point, and desire to have five minutes more.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will realise that the time limit for speeches was fixed by agreement among all parties and I cannot allot more time to any Honourable Member to the prejudice of other Groups in the House. He has already taken more than 20 minutes.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: May I have five minutes more? I represent an important community.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member must conclude now.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I would make a final appeal to the European Group not to regard what I have said in a spirit of resentment, because I do believe that if only the Europeans would offer the hand of friendship to the other peoples in this country, in return the peoples of India will extend to Europeans real friendliness. If I may be allowed to clarify this position . . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has already sufficiently clarified the position. The Honourable Member will please resume his seat.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: If I may conclude with one sentence.

Mr. President: No.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I find myself in a peculiarly difficult position. This budget is a transition budget and so is the gentleman who has put it before the House. He will, he says, be leaving us very soon; and therefore the homily preached by the Honourable Member who led the discussion on the Finance Bill about the old order and the new order loses significance. We have sanctioned all the grants with minor alterations here and there; and now when the same Honourable Member is coming to us for ways and means and to find money to implement those grants we seem to be in a fighting mood and we tell him that we shall not give him the money or power to collect the money to carry out the order we have

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given him. Sir, the Treasury Bench today may be filled soon by people other than those who are occupying them and I am therefore disturbed again in my mind, particularly when I notice that the Grand Remonstrance we have been making all these days is almost a waste of time. Sir, I have got strange support from a strange quarter. The President of the Indian National Congress, speaking of course of food only, has said that:

“The Working Committee firmly believes that until a National Government comes into power no effective work can be done with regard to food”;

and I want to add, almost all the items of our discussion to that. We are now in transition ourselves and whatever the three ministers do, it is in the atmosphere that when the time comes for the implementation of the grants we have sanctioned it will be we who will spend the money. If that is the idea I do not understand how and on what logical ground we can possibly decide to turn down the Finance Bill.

Diwan Ghaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): How did the Honourable Member's party decide it last year?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Sir, you will take note of the seconds lost in this.

My answer is this—and I have been in politics perhaps as long as any Member on my right—that if you have done it for ten or twenty years you need not do it this year out of all the years in our political history.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Consistency is the virtue of fools.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Consistency in foolishness may not lead us to the goal we have before us. Consistency in service to the country, consistency in making the Finance Member do things that we want will perhaps be useful to us. To see people getting up and talking irresponsibly here has made my heart sink. We do not realise what we are talking and I feel that hardy annuals which an earlier generation placed before the country are of no use today. The most awkward example was the one placed before the House by the Honourable Member who would not employ tractors in agriculture because a tractor did not give dung and urine. Can we go down to any lower depths of illogicality, of running away miles from common sense than that utterance, coming from a quarter which claims to speak in the name of Indian nationalism? If nothing else would convince me of not accepting such nationalism that tractor is enough to keep me back . . .

Sir, the few remarks that I propose to make will be addressed not to the Finance Member who is sitting on that bench today; the few remarks I am going to make will be intended for his successor, because I expect that whosoever sits there will look to the interests of India. The past is finished; we know that the interests of those who governed our country were not our interests. But in this transitional period we cannot get things by pressing an electric button. We will have to go through a bit of medium pace because in order to bring down things to our mode and our standards we shall need some time. India even today in this twentieth century and a half is in a primitive condition. Backward countries have gone ahead but our rulers did not go beyond the seaports of India into the hinterland. They just talked of imports and exports and of their dividends. They did not care for our country, and therefore we have been left behind in the race of progress. Sir, I will give you only one instance. Egypt today is looking to its area and also the desert part of it one of the richest countries of the world. Sind is situated identically in the same position as Egypt; a big mighty river with two green belts on both sides. But Sind is poor and Egypt is rich, because our rulers in the past never thought of Sind. I hope the new Member will understand that situation. My view is that we have to create a new concept in our national economy. Let us forget the past and think of the future. As a Muslim I do not believe in the division of society on an economic basis.

God did not create human beings all equal physically or mentally. We have heard the cheap claptrap of principles that are supposed to emanate from Moscow, and there seems to be a mentality that India can progress only along the lines laid down by Moscow. I do not believe it, because you will realise that the Moscow of Stalin is different from the Moscow of Lenin; and by and by I am hoping that the terror of the Presidium will go and the poor people in Russia will be able to progress according to their own ideals. Sir, the Budget making the rich richer and the poor poorer does not give us a balanced view of the actual situation, for the simple reason that I am one of those unfortunate beings that does not borrow his ideals from overseas. We need the labourer and we also need the capitalist; one without the other would cease to exist. Our country will perhaps be laid on the road to progress when the present Finance Member vacates his seat, and thus for a number of years—I cannot tell you how many—we will have to go through a process of transformation. It will be wrong if my Indian colleagues in this House do not begin to think seriously about it: to talk of nationalization, to chop the head of private enterprise, and then to talk at all times of the peasant and the worker as against the landlord and the capitalist will not suit conditions as we shall inherit them. We shall need the Landlord and Capitalist as well as the Peasant and the Labourer if we wish to establish an economy in this country that will put us back on the plane where the East-India Company found us. We have got to do that; otherwise this cheap claptrap of imported political theories and ideals will lead us nowhere. In fact we shall perhaps have done permanent injury to our country if we do not mend our way of looking at things.

The successor of the present Member will realize that the distribution of industry in this country is not right or correct. The only explanation that I can give to it is that our English rulers thought only of the sea port towns and of carrying away our goods. The redistribution of industries in this country will have to be in accordance with the raw produce wherever found and coal and electricity or other means of working modern machinery to create a balanced scheme of industrialization. To leave a large section of our people just to work in the fields and starve will not be the correct economy of the future, and therefore whosoever from amongst the Members to my right occupies that seat, will have to see to it that there is no maldistribution of industries. Wa, Sir, in the Muslim Federation passed a Resolution to this effect months ago. I am sorry the mentality of the present Secretariat of the Government of India is rather dull and refuses to accept things suggested to it in all sincerity. We said:

"That the Federation is of the opinion that in any scheme of industrialization and reconstruction in India, the fixation of industries and the distribution of State-Aid should be made on a basis which contributes to the raising of the living standards in all parts of the country and finds work for people everywhere."

That has not been done, and I hope the new Finance Member

Sir Cowasjee Jahangir: May I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that the textile industry has already been stopped by Government from expanding in Bombay.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: There is cotton elsewhere also. Bombay and Ahmedabad need not run away with everything. Nagpur and Indore have shown that cotton can be worked by the people of those areas as well as Bombay and Ahmedabad, but these octopuses of Bombay and Ahmedabad will not let other parts of India advance industrially for the simple reason that their percentage of dividends may go down, but I want my countrymen wherever they be to get their cloth cheaper.

Sir, in this connection, may I also point out that in these days of financial difficulties even where the Muslims have tried to float companies, that great Department in the Government of India which sanctions the flotation of companies has been particularly indifferent and unjust to us, and I would, therefore, ask his successor, as and when he comes into office, to let us also be industrialized, let us also raise our standard of living, and let us also share the prosperity that, I hope, will come when the British octopus has left us.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural):
By all means.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I have heard that before—'by all means'—but my experience in life, Sir, has been that nationalism as I have seen it for forty years is '*meetha meetha mera, aur khatta khatta tera*'. Coming as I do from Bengal I understood that the nationalism of the Congress variety meant 'service of the majority'. Mr. President, Sir, if you will give me half an hour I will tell you in your private Chamber how nationalism gloated over the deaths of Muslims in Bengal because their number in the next census would be lower, and the majority would be converted into a minority.

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Sir, I defy any questioner from any quarter on that because when I quote gentlemen giving their names they will perhaps blow up or blow me up. Therefore, what I want is that as and when we decide to go ahead let us now realize that life should be different under nationalism than under foreign domination.

Sir, they have been talking even in the Muslim quarters about taxation. I hope the Honourable Member's successor will establish a department and catch hold of people who have indulged in Taxation Evasion. I cannot understand how millionaires cropped up like mushrooms in this country when they had to pay 98½ per cent. in all the series and grades of taxation. Sir, I hope the new Finance Member will put his hands into the pockets of these people who have run away with our money. If he does that I think he will get anything from four to five hundred crores to be spent for our advancement and our prosperity. He will at least be able to distribute his largesse taken from these marauders who indulged in anti-social activities and he will distribute his largesse, I hope, with equity and in a general way. We have got to think of taxation in the higher rungs of our social strata as also in the lower. The poor man also must pay his pie where the rich man must pay his ten rupees. Friends who have been talking in terms of the language of thirty years ago, do not realise that India has a coastline of 3,000 miles and India has to arrange for the safety of a country in which 400 million people live. Unless I am proved to be wrong, and I hope I shall be, I hope it is not the intention of Indian Nationalism to ask the British Navy to take care of our coast and to ask the British Tommy with his bayonet to keep law and order in the country, so that nationalism makes money and rich nationalism manufactures politicians, professors, barristers, industrialists and millionaires. Let us think in terms of a taxation spread over all sections of the community because it will be for the benefit of all.

There is just one more point, Mr. President which should also be taken note of by the new Finance Minister, and that is, that the British in their own interests have not thought of creating an Internal Market of the 400 million people in this country. America has about 130,000,000 people. Its economy is self-sufficient. I would ask the new Finance Minister to create possibilities and opportunities in this country so that we may also be self-sufficient. I should not like my colleagues in this House to look at this budget piece-meal. Let us look at all the items we have sanctioned. It will then be realized that it will be harmful at the present time to indulge in old theatricalities because the time for theatricalities has passed.

Talking of the Navy, I hope, Sir, the new Finance Minister and his colleagues will see to it that the decision taken by the naval authorities of today of importing almost 450 British naval officers and selecting only 60 out of our boys here, will not create an Indian Navy as we should like to have it. I hope my information is proved to be incorrect because if these extra boys are not wanted in the British Navy and they are passed on to us, our boys will never reach the higher rungs of naval officialdom in their life time and we shall never be able to have the Navy as we want it.

Sir, may I also suggest that, whoever is in charge of the Food Department, and as and when the change comes

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural). As, when and if!

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: . . . that greater attention will be put to the technical and scientific aspect of our food problem. I am not entirely convinced of this famine stunt we have been witnessing. India is accustomed to famines, floods, and calamities of a thousand and one type. Perhaps Madras today is suffering. Perhaps Bombay today is suffering. But the propagandist method in which they are shouting makes me a bit suspicious. They did not do so when humanity was suffering in Bengal. We were then asked to create a psychology of satisfaction and courage and fight that of panic. We were then asked to tell people not to shout and that the Government would do this, that and the other and that everything was all right. Why all these delegations to New York and London and here there and everywhere? Let us have these scientists tell us that there are enough vitamins in edible goods other than rice, wheat, bajra and jawar. Sir, if a programme of dietetics is prepared, I feel certain that we shall be able to feed our people without going with the beggar's bowl all over the shop and paying through our noses for the little that we may get.

Sir, I must finish very soon. Key industries should be nationalised. Middle industries should have capitalism as well as State-Aid and Private Enterprise must be allowed to go ahead until we in our wisdom nationalise everything in this country.

There are just two points on which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member or Secretary in charge of Education. Sir, they have prepared a scale of salaries for the teaching staffs of Universities aided by the Government of India. Every University has been thought of but they will not add one more pie to my University, I mean the University of Aligarh. In fact, because of the Intermediate College having been removed, the grant has also gone with it. Our teachers, professors and lecturers there, also need higher salaries, and they also find it difficult in these days to feed their children. I hope, and I am addressing this to the present Finance Minister, because by a stroke of the pen he can give us as many lakhs as he is going to give crores in other departments.

Only one point, Sir, and I would not have brought it in had reference not been made to it in several speeches, and that is the question of Urdu. I am so happy to realize and feel that nationalism is at least prepared to admit that Urdu is the *lingua franca* of India, the only national language of this sub-continent. There is no other language that can stand in line with it. I call Urdu, the *lingua indica*, of Asia. I have spoken Urdu with Arabs in Port Said. I have spoken Urdu naturally in Aden, and Urdu will carry one through in Hong Kong and Shanghai also. He will not starve and his thirst will be quenched if he says "Pani lao". Artificial languages cannot be created overnight. I know the Zionists in Jerusalem have not succeeded. In public streets they think they are talking Hebrew but in their own houses they talk Yiddish or German. If the Government of India and the would-be Education Minister ever think of encouraging any language in India, it must be Urdu, perhaps written in two script.

Sir, I have done.

Shri Sri Prakasa: We are undone!

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I congratulate the present Finance Member for the courage he has shown, for the new ground he has broken and I as an Indian nationalist am grateful to him.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Nationalist!

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Yes, a Muslim alone can be a nationalist in the true sense of the word. A rigid system of castes has been the bane of our country and it will keep it in slavery for 3,000 years hence as it has done for 3,000 years in the past.

I have done, Sir.

Mr. President: We will now take up the adjournment motion.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MALADMINISTRATION OF DELHI POLICE DEPARTMENT RESULTING IN A STRIKE BY A LARGE NUMBER OF POLICEMEN

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Mr. President, I move:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The situation as I find today has certainly undergone a change but not a fundamental change yet. The hunger strike continues and news has come through that a similar strike is proceeding in the U. P. somewhere

An Honourable Member: Mirzapur.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: And news has also come through that the Bombay Government have taken precaution against similar strikes by attending to the grievances of the police in Bombay.

I think I owe an apology to the House for taking up their time in discussing the subject today but my only excuse is that, as I said the other day, the Delhi strike is only a symptom: the disease is much deeper. The issues involved in a strike of this nature are deeper than the symptom. You have got to consider those issues rather than look at it merely as a strike and the conditions under which it took place. But before I come to the disease itself I would just like to narrate as briefly as possible some relevant facts.

The immediate cause of this particular strike was a complaint about the bad quality of food. I cannot imagine a strike taking place in the police lines and spreading to every police station both in the city and also in the rural areas unless some other grievances had been felt by a large number of policemen, both officers and the rank and file, for sometime. Further investigation has led me to believe that these grievances have been in existence for a long time. Many of the grievances have been in existence for a long time but on this particular occasion perhaps the whole trouble would have died down, if the Reserve Inspector Harrison, had not mishandled the situation as he did. Immediately after the complaint had been preferred about bad food, instead of taking notice of the grievance and redressing it, he caused the spokesmen of the complainants to be mishandled, to be manhandled, to be beaten and his whole attitude was most insulting and rude. He was not the only one. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Mr. Robinson, also came on the scene and I am told, on as good authority as I can possibly rely upon, that his attitude and behaviour towards these people was equally objectionable. He even went the length of actually assaulting one of the spokesmen and I believe that all the three who were arrested on the occasion are now in the Red Fort, one of them having sustained serious injuries.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member): No.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: One Chandrabhan or some other did receive certain injuries on the head and he bled. I have heard it from an eye-witness who saw a pool of blood in the lorry in which this person was taken away. I should like Sir John Thorne to verify these facts before he contradicts me.

This is only as I said a symptom. I do not wish to take the time of the House by recapitulating the events which followed this strike. They were very fully reported in the press. Every one knows what happened. The only disturbing factor about the whole thing is that even today a large number of policemen are still refusing rations and they are believed to be on hunger strike, although according to the Home Member's report only a very small percentage

were refusing food and the others have begun to take their food. On no occasion have they refused to perform their duties.

I may also perhaps mention some of their grievances. Among their longstanding grievances the first is inadequacy of pay in the case of the foot constables particularly, hard duties, trying conditions of service, bad ration and insulting treatment by the Senior Superintendent of Police against whom grievances have been nursed even by subordinates of the higher grade, discriminatory high salaries of the European sergeants, who are called upon to perform duties similar to those which are generally allotted to foot constables or perhaps at best to head constables (and these European sergeants are drawing salaries beginning from Rs. 200 to 300, leave alone the poor foot constable even a sub-inspector cannot rise up to Rs. 300, he begins with 80 and ends with Rs. 180).

I do not wish to deal with their grievances any more. It would appear an irony of fate that we who have been complaining against the corruption of and oppression by this Department should be prepared today to discuss their grievances in this House but that only proves that we are not dead to that sense of responsibility which recognises the legitimacy of any grievance anywhere, whether it be in any service or elsewhere. But, Sir, at the same time I should like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that when I use the expression 'maladministration' of the Department I have in mind the history of the last 50 years. During the last 50 years particularly, if not longer, the police force has been associated in the public mind as an instrument of oppression and corruption of the worst kind and for a very good reason too, because the foreign rulers of this land have always relied upon this particular instrument for using it against patriots, and progressive political movements, in suppressing them, and persecuting them, and in tracking down people who have held political views of a progressive nature. The result is that in the public mind the police has come to be associated as the worst instrument of oppression and, as I say, corruption, because it is through the police that corruption can be checked but if the police itself is corrupt, who is going to check corruption? None. They themselves are corrupt and naturally police corruption breeds corruption elsewhere unchecked. During the last 25 years generally and during the last 5 years particularly a very great change has come over the country psychologically and otherwise. I maintain that even the police has not remained unmoved. Even they have begun to realise that they have been called upon time and again to perform the most disagreeable of duties, duties traitorous to the country and naturally a conflict has arisen in their minds—a conflict between conscience and duty. On the one hand they have got to perform certain duties, and on the other they have got the feeling in their heart of hearts that these are not the duties that they should be called upon to perform. Their true duty should be to track anti-social offenders and not to track down patriots and politicians—not to chase them and persecute them. This has created a certain feeling in their minds and these two factors, combined with economic conditions, have brought about the situation which has manifested itself in the strike which took place in Delhi. That being so, I find that now we have laid our finger on the right spot. Now we know where the disease is. The disease is not purely, economic. It is something deeper. The seat of the disease is somewhere deeper in the—I shall not call it body politic—body secretariat, if you like, of the Government of India. And that disease has to be rooted out. It must be rooted out. Unless it is rooted out I see nothing but the most serious of consequences resulting from the attitude which has been persisted in by those who are administering the Police Department. In Delhi particularly, for instance, I invite your attention to the happenings, the tragic happenings, of the 7th of March. What was it that happened on that day? Here I have got in my possession the 'Situation Report' and if you just look at it, if I had only the time to read it, it would convince everyone that the head of the police in Delhi was totally oblivious of the serious situation which did actually arise.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: What report is this?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Situation Report by the Senior Superintendent of Police. I have got a copy of it. It is strange that these things fall into my hands.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I congratulate the Honourable Member on that!

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)].

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: If you look at the instructions that were issued for the disposition of the police force on the 7th, you will be amazed to find that not even a handful of police out of three thousand were detailed for the city. Just a few policemen were left. All the others were shunted off to various other places. That definitely and positively proves that the Department is maladministered and, that they take no notice of the actual conditions. They are oblivious of the feelings of the people. They have been oblivious of the needs of the situation. They are oblivious—totally oblivious—of the great change that has come over the country and, therefore, they continue to administer this Department in a manner which goes against the very grain of India's nationalism. That is the disease. Unless they change their whole attitude, these troubles will multiply, and I am perfectly certain that once these troubles multiply they will overwhelm the country and the chaos that will ensue will be uncontrollable.

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official): I rise to support the adjournment motion which has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali. For the last few days there is the strike of the policemen going on in this city. On the first day the Honourable the Home Member gave us some idea as to the reasons for the strike, and one of the reasons which he stated was that the superior officer gave a slap in the face of a subordinate. I am absolutely confident, Sir, that the Honourable the Home Member himself does not believe that a thing like that could result in the present trouble which is going on in the police forces. The reason for this trouble is certainly much deeper than that. The trouble that we find in the police forces is a symptom of a deep-rooted disease which we find in all the forces in the country today. This is one of the reasons why, when an officer slapped a subordinate, that immediately resulted in the strike. There is no doubt that the police in this country is very poorly paid. In spite of the figures given to us by the Honourable Home Member, nobody could be convinced that the pay which the policemen in this country are receiving is anything sufficient to meet the ordinary human demands of life. Coupled with that, as I told you, our country today is living on the verge of a volcano, and the slightest thing is enough to burst the whole bubble.

I also take this opportunity to warn my friends on the opposition benches because I hold them equally responsible for the disturbances which are created in the country today,—as a result of the irresponsible talk of 'revolution' and the irresponsible talks of 'Do or die'. Our youngmen of the country, men in the Army, the Navy, the Police, and the air force, take our national leaders on their own words. (Interruptions.) It will not help if one person against so many people is simply bombarded with questions while speaking. I am not a person to be unnerved because of these disturbances. You will have your time to reply to me but let me put forward my own views because I am more interested in the safety and peace of the country.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): As a nominated member.

Miss Maniben Kara: But you have come on a franchise where only three per cent. of the population has returned you to this House.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. The Honourable Lady should address the Chair.

Miss Maniben Kara: I will warn my friends on the opposition benches that our young men, men in the Army, the Navy and the Police, take them at their word of "Do or die". As nobody wants to die without doing anything they certainly want to do something. You disown them in the name of non-violence if they act resulting in violence. If you really mean business, the country is ready, the Army is ready, the Navy is ready, the Air Force is ready, the railwaymen are ready, the Posts and Telegraphs workers are ready. Are you ready to lead them for the revolution? When they act, you preach non-violence.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): And the women are ready.

Miss Maniben Kara: The point is that you are only waiting for the transference of power. I am not advocating my views on violence as this is not the occasion to advocate my own views on the subject. (*An Honourable Member:* Whose views are you advocating?) I ask you to do the job, and we shall be with you. On one side you talk of non-violence and on the other side you call them big heroes, at times, you denounce and say that this was not the act which you ever wanted them to do. Once you disown them, and then you exploit them for your own political purposes. I would, therefore, say, that such fanaticism in revolt is motivated not for the betterment of the economic conditions of the people, but simply because it is based on racial hatred. It is a shame and disgrace to this country, that the safety of a white man is not guaranteed on the streets. It is a shame and a disgrace to this country, that people cannot go about without fear of attack because they happen to have a white skin. Such a thing is the result of the racial hatred preached by the opposite benches. I would therefore say that the only thing which can bring safety and security and peace and happiness in this country is the economic solution of that problem and the economic solution cannot be brought about unless there is a Government of the people by the people and for the people.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I support the adjournment motion which my deputy leader has so ably moved. But before I enter into what I propose to say on the floor of the House. I would dispose in my own way of the Honourable lady speaker who represents the constituency of the grace of His Majesty's Governor General in Council.....

An Honourable Member: Are we discussing that?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: My considered reply to her emotional outburst is that whatever she may think of the do or die spirit, whatever she may think of the professions of members who are led by the nationalist leaders of this country, our attitude is clear, that when we find that even the policemen can stand up for their rights, even the dark-skinned policemen can stand up and claim their rights against their white-skinned masters, we feel that the do and die spirit has demonstrated and vindicated itself.

But before we express ourselves on that point, I propose to expose the guilt of the Government in this matter by reading out before the House, with your permission, copies of a few press telegrams which were proposed to be sent by a foreign newspaper correspondent and which were withheld by the Government in their unwisdom. Sir on the 22nd March, at about 11 or 12 in the morning, one Mr. Marcuse sent a telegram to a French newsagency in London and there it was stated:

"Strike provoked yesterday morning by incident between Anglo-Indian inspector and Indian policeman and which at the start had only the character of a protest has taken since a new aspect. Strikers have made known their demands and announce they will continue hungerstrike until they obtain satisfaction. Policemen ask their salary be increased from 44 rupees monthly to 80, better food, eight hours day work. These demands have taken the form of ultimatum giving authorities six days delay after which 'more serious measures' will be taken by strikers bringing to light misery of Indian policemen in Delhi which caused strong emotion among the population."

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal]

This is what I want to underline:

"Salary of policemen including all indemnities amounts to 44 rupees, that is approximately half the salary of servant employed in foreign or Indian home. Each policeman receives ridiculous increase of one rupee every three years, one rupee every three years. Food consists almost exclusively of *chapatis* and *dal*. Following these revelations interpellations are expected at the next Central Assembly. Marcuse."

On this the order of the Government is:

"Your press telegram to press French Indep. London stopped as objectionable."

Then another telegram was sent by the same correspondent to the following effect:

"Manifestation starting 1330 old Delhi included about five hundred policemen and was rapidly increased by several thousands sympathisers. Demonstrators going towards Vice-regal House were intercepted in Chandni Chowk by armed detachments of Gurkhas. After usual warning demonstrators adopted threatening attitude and soldiers used tear-gas bombs thus forcing the first ranks to withdraw in disorder. Order was rapidly restored but all shops closed in the Old City and it is reported strike spread to neighbouring localities. Particular importance of police strike is stressed and this is important coming during period of political tension already marked by numerous incidents and on eve of British Cabinet Mission. Marcuse."

This also was again withheld on the ground of being objectionable. May I ask the Honourable Home Member what is the objectionable character in these telegrams? Is it his case that if this appeared in the foreign press the police would catch the contagion, the discontent there and violence would ensue there? The reason is very clear. The Government knows in their heart of hearts that their attitude and treatment of the Indian police is so indecent and shameful that even though their tyranny in India is well-known they would not like the foreign people to know how they are kept and maintained and how they are treated. Apart from this, may I ask the Honourable Home Member—this comes in incidentally—the policy of this Government in regard to press censorship? We understood, or we were made to understand some time back, that press censorship was withdrawn, although we know that under the Posts and Telegraphs Act, a rusty piece of legislation, the Government has the power to withhold these messages on the ground of policy. We claim from this side of the House to know why that piece of legislation has been applied in cases of this description and what is the policy in that matter.

Coming to the question of strikes, as my deputy leader has stressed, this is not a disease in itself. It is the symptom of an earlier disease and the Government ought to set itself thinking. It is not a revolt from outside; it is a revolt practically from within their own chamber. Why is this so? In the first place it is due to the racial discrimination which is there. My friend, Mr. Anthony is not here; he has put his own interpretation of Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans. There is a distinction, an holy distinction between the whites and the browns in the matter of the police services. Both are expected to do the same job; the Indians do their work no less conscientiously than the Britishers in the lines, if not more. But they refuse now to accept lying down the discrimination by way of salary, the discrimination in food, the discrimination in uniform and the discrimination in treatment from their overlords. So long they have accepted this discrimination because the inner urge of the moral right to revolt was not there. But now with the arrival of the I. N. A. spirit things have changed. The Indian feels that he is an Indian, whatever may be his occupation; and he feels that he must have his right recognised as an Indian, whether it be in the police, or in the navy or in other Departments of the Government.

Then, my deputy leader has referred to the deep discontent and what is that discontent? That discontent arises out of the growth and expansion of political feeling all over the country. These policemen are after all human beings: they have been used as tools or weapons of British imperialism; they have been used so long for crushing the nationalistic aspirations of the country; they have been so used against own happiness, against their own better feelings; but now, since the urge has been pervading all over the country, nemesis has set in. These people, under the very administration of this special superintendent of police,

Mr. Robinson, in 1942 were used as tools for crushing the 1942 movement here. They lent themselves but they did so as a matter of duty, not as a matter of happiness. Then only the other day restrictions were imposed upon processions and meetings and the Indian police had to be used for enforcing these restrictive orders. They did it as a matter of duty so far as service is concerned but they did it not as a matter of happiness and they did it grudgingly. Only the other day when the victory celebrations were being carried on, unnecessarily for no fault of anybody, certain people were arrested only to keep up the prestige of the *sabardast* Government. These police people were made tools and pawns in the hands of the executive persons. There is something like even a worm turning. These people as Indians have a right to make their existence felt as Indians and to have their rights recognised as Indians first and Indians last. Therefore all over this same question appears, namely, are the Government going to treat these things as isolated specimens of trouble here and there or are they going to approach this question as different expressions under different contexts of the one spirit, namely, the spirit of revolt against foreign domination. That is the only approach and without that approach there can be no satisfactory solution of this trouble. The solution is very clear. In the first place the racial discrimination must be removed in this as in every other sphere. This is the voice of India, expressing itself through these policemen. They are sons of the country and their rights must be recognised as sons of the country. They must be recognised in a way that they are made to feel that they are going to protect their own people. After all we have passed through dark days and travails. We are at a time when the spirit of recovery is coming. The Cabinet Mission is here trying to set things right but this Government will not do this properly and well. They must remember that they owe a duty to themselves. They must lay the foundation of the new era that is coming and they must make their contribution to it. They must recognise the rights of the people forthwith. Otherwise the writing on the walls quite clear, the writing which has been made by the I. N. A. spirit. That writing is—he who sows the wind must reap the whirlwind and that is why we say today 'Quit India'.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and suburbs, Muhammadan Urban): Mr. Deputy President. I think adjournment motions of this type in the House have become, I cannot find a better word than our good Indian word, *ajiran*. We Indians have now to begin thinking in terms of not critics or agitators but administrators of the India of tomorrow. That being my viewpoint, I feel that we have done enough to create trouble. Unfortunately the spirit of the administrator being absent, any stick that could be found is being used to belabour the Government with. Those who think in terms of building a nation and administering its affairs should take it for granted that the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Police shall not be touched and if this attitude of mine is not developed, then the India that we shall inherit will be an India which shall be Hell. If we wish to avoid that Hell, I hope sense will dawn in the minds to my right, because this kind of adjournment motion will lead to difficulties which we may not be able to control. To raise the *jinn* is easy but to put him back into the bottle and seal it up will be beyond our power, because to develop our power of governing this land will take time. The speeches delivered so far have a definite political tinge. I know I shall be accused as a renegade from nationalism when I declare that all these grievances and all this tall talk of our soldiers and sailors and policemen and airmen feeling their present life irksome because of racial distinctions, because of differences in salaries and so on is secondary. The main point is that we have to take care of—I shall again use another Urdu word—the *Bi Jamalos*—who are taking advantage of this situation. They should be laid low. Otherwise the India that we shall get will not remain under our control. I will place through you before the House certain conditions and circumstances in the troubles in Calcutta. The students made a demonstration in Wellington Park and from there they wanted to march along certain routes of Calcutta. There was great

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trouble and I feel that the police there did exceed the powers given to it; but that is not the point I wish to place before you. Those poor students were made the means by politicians of bringing trouble into the city. Lorries were burnt and fires were started and what troubled me most was that at a meeting at which Hindus and Muslims and others sat together in order to recommend to the citizens of Calcutta that it would be wiser now to bring back peace into the city, the suggestion was thrown out. The students said they had nothing to do with the burning of the lorries. The Congress people had published their manifesto saying that they had nothing to do with it being believers in *ahinsa paramo dharma* and thus they clarified their position. The Hindu Mahasabha people said they were not there while the Muslims were not in the picture at all. I, and a colleague of mine, who were present said, we were not in the picture from beginning to end. Then Sir, who the devil it was that was creating all the trouble in Calcutta. It should have been the duty of the citizens of Calcutta to recommend to the Government as well as the citizens to take steps to find the real culprits out. That was not done. The joint manifesto that we wanted to publish was never signed. The only instruction given to me and my colleague was that if "you feel as we feel, then republish the Congress manifesto with your signatures". We were told that representatives of the Congress declined to put their signatures to a document along with those of members of any other political organization. Mr. Deputy President, Sir, if I could get hold of the *Bi Jamalo* of Calcutta, I would have twisted her neck. I appreciate that times are hard, I appreciate that the policeman too has a right to live. I have never had confidence in the principles of British administration in this country. I have spent almost the whole of a life time in attacking it. But, Sir, I would most earnestly appeal to the Honourable the Home Member to realise that if there are grievances, and I am sure there are, he will have an inquiry made not by superior police officers but by independent people and then try to meet the difficulties which the poor police people in Delhi and other places are faced with. Such a committee of inquiry should examine the grievances. I know financially it may not be possible for him or even possible for this House to decide and give to the Government of India sufficient money to increase the salaries of all the strikers in the country wherever they may be not only of Police, but of the Royal Indian Navy, the Army, the Air Force and various other Departments of administration of the Government. But, Sir, I hope that this tendency to make use of those sections of our people who are supposed to defend us who are supposed to keep law and order will be eliminated from the political arena of our constitutional movement in the country. We are good enough to fight among ourselves and to fight the present rulers of the country, but to disturb the British administration as it happens to be by making use of these forces of law and order and defence is creating a situation which we may not be able to control when we get into power. For that reason, I feel inclined to request the Honourable Mover of this Motion that having related to the Honourable the Home Member all the grievances of the police force of Delhi, he will see his way to withdraw the Motion, and that in future before any such motions are brought forward, he will go and talk to the Member for the moment in charge of the Department and settle affairs in an amicable and private manner. We have had enough of advertisements, we have had enough of propaganda. Our propaganda has succeeded. The Secretary of State, the President of the Board of Trade and the First Lord of the Admiralty are here to give us what we think we are going to get. I do not know what will be the result. But then at this time, when Hindu and Muslim leaders should devote their attention to bigger problems of the nation, this tinkering with minor problems of the salary of policemen in the enclave of Delhi, whether they get good food or not—is not discharging our national duty properly. Sir, as an old student of Aligarh, let me inform the House that the only grievance we had against the management of the College, as it was in my days, was the continuous and living grievance against food, and the food was always good. It is not the policeman,

it is not the Royal Indian Navy or the Army man, it is not the boys in Karachi that are getting bad food. I have eaten rice in Calcutta which I would not have given to my dog in normal days. Therefore, the shouts of these boys in the absence of anything more sensible than food to talk about, need not be given a hearing, need not be made the subject of adjournment motions. I ask them in the name of the India of tomorrow that when the Secretary of State for India and his colleagues are among us—and every one of us wants to meet them and stand in a *queue* as they did when the former Lord Privy Seal came to this country, because every one wanted to appear in the newspapers as one who had shaken the Lord Privy Seal by the hand: This time it is more serious and I hope that these petty police affairs will be settled by the Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable the Home Member privately, amicably and to the satisfaction of the men who had struck. Let us give them better food, let us give them as many things as they want, provided our finances permit.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Sir, with some part of the speech made by the Honourable Member who spoke last, I do not always find myself wholly in agreement, with him, but certainly with some part of his speech this afternoon, I do find myself completely in agreement, that part of it which deplores and discourages the exploitation for political purposes of discontent and disorder in the services, whether they are armed forces of the Crown or the police or any other. To that I would apply a word, which is much used in India, the word statesmanlike, and I should like to think that his advice will be followed. Now, Sir, I am afraid I must inflict some facts on the House, and those facts do not agree with the facts given by my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party. I do not propose to take up his statements one by one, but I would ask the House, where his statements and mine conflict, to remember that in this House on Friday he made the following statements and suggestions. He said on Friday that the military were in possession of all the main streets of the city; he said that the whole city was without police; and he suggested—I do not say he stated it as a fact but he obliquely suggested—that there had been shooting. He said that the strike had spread to rural areas.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, on a point of personal explanation, I never suggested that any shooting had taken place. On the contrary, I made it perfectly clear that there had been gas shots and no shooting whatever.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have just refreshed my recollection of the speech and I ask him to refer to it and to see whether in fact he made it perfectly clear that there had been no shooting. I deny that he did so.

Well, Sir, he has made some other statements today which are equally void of foundation. But, as I say, I shall not take these one by one; my time is limited. I shall give the House certain facts relating to the causes of this police trouble. My Honourable friend's theory is that this situation was created in Delhi by the maladministration of the police department. Well, Sir, whatever the causes of the trouble, I do not myself believe that maladministration of the police department is one of them. However, here are the facts and the House can judge. The trouble started, as so many troubles in life do, from very trivial incidents. On last Wednesday morning a party of police was sent in the ordinary course of duty to take treasure from the Reserve Bank in Chandni Chowk to New Delhi. They delivered the goods and they waited in New Delhi for a lorry to take them back. Apparently there had been an understanding that a lorry should bring them back to the lines. But that lorry did not turn up. They waited for an hour or two and then set off marching back to the lines. I should not have thought it a very laborious march. However, it evidently caused a certain amount of peevishness among them. On the way there was an altercation between a constable and a head constable because the constable was marching in a slovenly fashion. Some hot words passed and when they got back to the lines the head constable reported the constable to the inspector. I do not think any one can take exception to that. The inspector did not take a serious view of the matter. He called in the

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constable, who admitted that there had been an altercation, though his explanation of it was rather different from the head constable's, and the inspector said, "Well, I am not going to do anything about this. I am not going to put this on record or make an official punishment but"—pointing out the constable he said—"you give him a slap on the back". That may or may not be excusable but at any rate. . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Was not Harrison the Reserve Inspector?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am not prepared to mention names to the House. It was the Reserve Inspector.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadian): Why not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Because these gentlemen are not here to defend themselves.

Diwan Chaman Lall: How does it affect the situation? If my Honourable friend uses the designation but does not give the name how does it affect him?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: If it does not affect the position I may be allowed to follow my own line in the matter. Either it makes a difference or it does not.

Diwan Chaman Lall: We want facts.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The inspector told the head constable to give him a slap on the back. I understand it is a sort of informal punishment; no record is made and there is nothing against the man on permanent record; but it is conveyed to him that he has done wrong and he must not do it again.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Does my Honourable friend approve of this punishment?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not; but I said that there is something to be said for it if you are not going to make a serious matter of every trivial incident. While that affair was going on; and, so far as I can make out, that had nothing whatever to do with the subsequent disturbances—the constable who was slapped made no grievance of it at all, and it was merely a coincidence that at that moment about a dozen constables who had been on this duty in Delhi came along to the office where this was going on and in a rather disorderly way started making a noise. The inspector sent out word to them to stop making that noise, but still the noise went on. He came out and told them to stop. He wanted names but they refused to give the names and they started to make themselves rather objectionable. Then—it is rather a long story—but there were seeds of trouble in their attitude and the inspector and the Deputy Superintendent took a serious view of the matter. Not a word was said at this stage of any grievances about pay, bad food or anything else except that the lorry had not been sent to New Delhi to fetch them back. That was the pretext of their going to the office and making a complaint. Well, Sir, they were told that night after their meals to be ready for standing guard. I do not quite understand that term, but I take it to mean that they were put on some extra duty to which, if there had been no trouble, they would not have been deputed. They said they were not willing to do that. However, nothing happened that night, but during the night posters were put up in various parts—anonymous posters—alleging various grievances; and it was quite clear that during the night the trouble boiled up and in the morning there were the incidents which have already been described in this House and which I do not propose to repeat.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): Were they printed posters?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, they were scrawled on paper; they were not printed. I give these facts because of what has been said about the grievances. My Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali, said that the Reserve inspector had manhandled and actually beaten the man, which he did not do. He

said that the grievance stated to him was about bad food; it was not. Mr. Asaf Ali said the grievances have been in existence for a long time. I am coming to that.

Now, Sir, the grievances that have been stated in the course of the inquiry held since these troubles are,—the quality of food, insufficiency of pay, the men's inability to get cloth or sufficient quantity of cloth from the police shop and some difficulty about getting the leave which may be sanctioned to them. The inquiry into their grievances is going on and I trust that we shall get to the bottom of it. But the point I am now making is that there had been no presentation of these grievances, either formally or informally, before this trivial incident caused the disturbance in the line. I am not saying that out of my head or merely on the report of senior officers of the police. I have seen statements recorded from the constables who were concerned at the first stage, and it is to my mind clear that if they had gone with these grievances to the inspector's office they would all agree on that version, which they did not; and a number of them show that all that they went to see the inspector about was because they did not get the lorry to bring them back from New Delhi. Well, Sir, there is a machinery for ascertaining the grievances of policemen, and I may say that the present Senior Superintendent of Police has done his best to amplify and enlarge the opportunities which the men have to represent their grievances. A few months ago he started a district Mess Committee. Now one of the grievances is about the bad quality of food. That Committee has a Secretary who is I understand a Head Constable and it is his business to visit all the messes during the month and to hear complaints about the quantity and quality of food. There have been no serious complaints. There is always of course bound to be some complaint from time to time; there has never yet been a mess where people are not really to complain about something; but there has been no serious complaint for about a year. The Senior Superintendent of Police discusses at the weekly meetings of Gazetted Officers all matters

5 P.M. which might affect the morale and discipline of the Police. He attends the meetings of this District Mess Committee. In addition he holds monthly and quarterly meetings of the Sports and Mutual Benefit Committee, and that is a body which includes lower subordinates, and there again there is every opportunity for people to raise complaints about their conditions of service and there have been no substantial complaints about the conditions of service of the Police in recent times. So I deny that these grievances are longstanding, that the Administration has been deaf to them, and that for that reason the Administration of the Police can properly be described as maladministration.

I have very little more to say. It is a defect of the adjournment motion procedure of bringing grievances to notice in this House that one has so little to say as regards the actual facts. What I have said has mostly been said already, and I do not want to go into that again, but those are the facts and these are the grievances. My Honourable friend, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition suggests that the trouble is still going on. He said that hunger strike continues and a large number of people are still refusing their food. . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That is my information.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: My information differs from his. I believe there are a few men—two stations have been mentioned—who are not on hunger strike but who are refusing to take Government rations. The trouble is practically over for the time being. Whether it is over for good depends on various things. This is a time when unrest, unease, discontent are rife. They are based on various causes: economic—the economic causes are obvious—political causes are I think also obvious. I am not going to indulge in any recrimination today—the lady at my back has made a few pretty severe thrusts in the direction of my friends opposite; but I would remind the House that there are people about in this country today whose business it is to exploit disorder and discontent and especially any form of discontent among

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the servants of Government, whether they are in the Armed forces or in the civilian services, and it is our business, it is the business of the Administration I admit, I claim it is the business of the Administration, it is the business of this House, and it is the business of the public, to see that the efforts of those people to use for their own advantage the discontents which are inevitably drifting about in the air after a war, it is the business of all of us to see that their efforts are not encouraged, or furthered in any way by anything that may be said or done or decided in this House.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sir, it is no pleasure to have to take part in a debate of this character. But, Mr. Deputy President, in view of what is coming very soon indeed and everybody knows what is coming. . . .

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Nobody knows what is coming.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Some sort of change of Government will have to take place.

An Honourable Member: For good or for worse?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: If my Honourable friends opposite are not here combined with my friends on my right, whoever it is somebody will have to take the place of my friends on the Treasury Benches. That is inevitable. In view of that fact, a debate of this character, may I most respectfully point out, is a dangerous thing. Days are gone when there were no immediate prospects of a change of Government. Perhaps a debate of this sort, however inadvisable it may have been then is not of the same complexion as it is today. In these days of agitation—and I have also sometimes taken part in agitation—I know that exaggeration is a part of that agitation—perhaps I have been guilty of exaggeration myself; perhaps deliberate sometimes, but most often I hope unconsciously—but exaggeration is a dangerous thing in a matter of this kind. The Honourable the Home Member had of course to remind us of what we were informed when we last discussed this matter. We were definitely told that information had been received that Old Delhi was in the hands of the military, that there were no policemen on the roads. I was inclined to believe that story, as I sat on these benches. It came with such authority and verily I believed it to be true, and I know that my Honourable friend opposite also believed it to be true. And why was it so? Because those rumours were deliberately spread so that my Honourable friends may be misled and in their turn may mislead others.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: If I may just be allowed a moment. Whatever I said that day in the House everybody knows. I was receiving my information from elsewhere and whatever information I imparted to the House came to me in writing from one of the most reliable journalists that I know of. He is somewhere up there.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Very unreliable.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: He said that he was an eye witness to the whole affairs. What am I to do?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I have entire confidence in the *bona fides* of my Honourable friend and because he said it with that confidence, we were misled. He was misled. We were all misled. But that shows the danger of exaggeration in matters of this kind. These dangerous stories are spread all over.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Even the Home Member had no information!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: No. What I want to draw the attention of my Honourable friend to, Mr. Deputy President, is that if these rumours were spread with such eagerness and such success, there must have been a body of men and women about the city who were desirous of spreading these exaggerated rumours.

Now this leads us to suspect that there is somebody of men and women who are out to make mischief. That a body of men who have been a credit to this country, who have been a credit to us all, a body of men who had remained steadfast through bad times and through good times in a manner which has not been only a credit to themselves but to all of us, to tamper with men of this kind is a most dangerous thing.

Now, one of my Honourable friends said that they were made to do duties treacherous to the country. Now, in view of the change that is going to take place, may I remind my Honourable friends that this body of loyal men will be as loyal to them as they have been to their present masters. They may be called upon to do such duties. Human nature being what it is, they may have to do similar treacherous duties in the future. It is dangerous, Mr. Deputy President, to say that some of the duties they perform are treacherous. Such expressions may rebound on ourselves in years to come.

Now, Sir, telegrams were read out to us which had been stopped. We were told that a French correspondent sent them. I presume he intended to send them to Europe and some power or some act, which still remains in the hands of Government, stopped those telegrams going. From what I could make out of these telegrams, they appear to me to be a little bit of exaggeration.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: A good deal of exaggeration!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Whoever that French correspondent may be, may I remind my Honourable friends that when they will be in power there will be many French, Belgium and German and Japanese correspondents in this country who will be ready to send telegrams to their own countries about the actions of my Honourable friends when they are in Government as prejudicial to them as these telegrams were prejudicial to the Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: A Nationalist Government will not be ashamed of the truth.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sit down I hope that then my Honourable friends will use the powers that they will possess. . . .

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: There will be no occasion then.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: . . . to suppress such dangerous foreign correspondents and they will do so with the conscientious belief that they will be serving the best interests of their country. (Interruptions). Sir, the world is upset. The whole world has received a shock.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Not at all!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: My dear old friend, Mr. Prakasa has not received a shock. He was kept in safety, safe from shocks. But we out here received such shocks as we pray to God we may never receive again. The world has received tremendous shocks and through those shocks it is possible that men and women have come into existence in all parts of the world.

Shri Sri Prakasa: By shocks!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: And such dangerous people from foreign parts will come to India and will require curbing and will require control, and I trust, and I am sure that when my friends get the power they will use that control and use those powers as I have seen the Congress Government in my own province use with great success.

Shri Sri Prakasa: You will then move motions of adjournment!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I have nothing further to say except that I do trust that my Honourable friend will not press this motion to a division. No good will be done and he has had his discussion. Perhaps this discussion was unfortunately forced upon him. I wish it had been cut short on the last day we discussed it and it had never been admitted. Unfortunately the discussion has taken place. I would appeal to the Leader of the Opposition and to my

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Honourable friend, his Deputy, to cut short the discussion now, to withdraw this motion and let us not go to the vote. Let us not encourage this sort of thing, not for the sake of Government but for our own sake, for the sake of my friends opposite. Let us not encourage indiscipline among the forces on whom we have to rely for the safety of this country.

Diwan Chaman Lall: This debate on this motion, I submit has been very cleverly side-tracked by the last two speakers. I find the spectacle on the floor of this House when an adjournment motion has been tabled that instead of my Honourable friend (who is not here) and my very old friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, censuring the Government for their misdeeds, actually applying their minds to censure the Opposition. An extraordinary situation! (*The Honourable Sir John Thorne:* Hear, hear.) I am glad my Honourable friend says hear, hear. They will not say hear, hear when I start dealing with their incompetence which has brought about this state of affairs. I reject the plea made by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir that the House should not divide on this question. There is a just grievance. There is a very serious fault committed by the administration which is represented by my Honourable friend over there, and we as the representatives of the people have every right and justification in censuring my friends over what they have not done. Any man, any intelligent man, let me qualify that expression, who heard my Honourable friend, the Home Member's speech, would have been aghast. For what does his speech imply? It implies that in regard to the grievances of these men there was not a word of information available to the immediate authorities and to the final authority, my Honourable friend over there. What does his speech mean? That suddenly without any justification, without rhyme or reason, this trouble originated in the City of Delhi and is likely to spread to other parts. Does he really want this House and this country to believe that what he says is really correct and if it is correct does he not realize that it is the incompetence of the immediate officers and the incompetence of my Honourable friend's Department that did not enable him to possess the information when he should have possessed? Does he know and has he said one single word about it—does he know that the average pay of a constable is Rs. 45 per month? All told. I want my friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir to understand the position, that all kinds of allowances included come to Rs. 45 a month. (Interruption). Amongst the new recruits, Mr. Deputy President, there are graduates, matriculates and educated people and all found their pay comes to Rs. 45 a month. All found includes their food, does it include the rent for the family and food for their families? My Honourable friend representing the rich European community seems to be aghast at this, that anybody should at all

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): You said, all told, not all found.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend will agree with me that this is a ghastly state of affairs that you should allow men, who are in charge of the safety of this Province, to allow them to be sweated in this fashion and my Honourable friend, the Home Member, did not say one word of sympathy in regard to this matter. He did not inform this House that this was a grievance and a very just grievance. Did he want this House to tell him the import of this grievance? Did he want this House to tell the immediate officers who are in charge of the police stations in Delhi the import of this particular grievance? It was time that they themselves of their own accord remedied this grievance. This is not the only grievance. There is a large number of other grievances—touring allowance, extra hours of duty—and one of their main grievances is that officers should be made to behave themselves properly. My Honourable friend very lightly touched upon this fanciful method of punishment, namely an irresponsible officer ordering a head constable to punish an ordinary constable by slapping him. It is an extraordinary proposition. Not until I interrupted my Honourable friend and asked

him whether he justified it, did he say that he did not justify it? What is the mentality of my Honourable friends opposite? What has happened to them that they are regardless of and indifferent to all these serious grievances?

My Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, wants us to say no more about this subject. Why not? Is it not necessary to bring this subject home to the Government if my Honourable friend wants his property to be safe from the hands of those who would rob him of it, if there were nobody to guard it? Does he not want his house guarded? Does he not want that those who are in charge of his safety should be decently dealt with and properly treated and if he does want them to be properly treated, why is he against this adjournment motion?

Much has been made, Mr. Deputy President, of the importing of politics into this matter. Much has been said about it by my Honourable friend. When Mr. Siddiqui was speaking he uttered a sentence. When he said "Sense will dawn upon the Honourable Members of the Opposition", immediately and quickly my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House should "Hear, hear". But sense has dawned on this side of the House and that is why we have brought forward this adjournment motion. Is sense going to dawn on that side of the House? Since sense will never dawn on that side of the House, it is necessary to expose public grievances as the representatives of the people and bring those grievances to the notice of the Honourable Members opposite. This is the only method that we have open to us. Let it be understood carefully, since insinuations and innuendos have been the order of the day in the speeches made on the floor of the House from that side of the House, that no one here on this side of the House is in favour of tampering with the discipline of the police force. Nobody is for tampering with the discipline of the police force. But a time does come when these people are unable to put up with the grievances that have gone on accumulating, because of the incompetence and inefficiency of Honourable Members opposite. When that time comes it is necessary to ventilate those grievances. We would not be doing our duty as representatives of the people if we did not ventilate those grievances on the floor of the House.

My Honourable friend is making enquiries into these grievances. What sort of enquiry is it going to be? There will be a magistrate, one of his own men. There will be a higher police official, again one of his own men. If he really wants to put an end to this trouble, it is necessary for him to have a judicial enquiry into this matter. Only a judicial enquiry will be able to give a just and proper verdict and put the police force on the proper lines, so that trouble of this nature may be avoided. It is not we who have created this trouble. It is my Honourable friends opposite and their incompetence which has brought about this trouble and it is time therefore that a proper enquiry were made into the allegations, into the grievances, into the conditions of service of these men, regarding whom, let me say this, there is not much love lost between the Congress and the Police. My Honourable friend knows perfectly well that we look at this question from an entirely impartial point of view in spite of the fact that we, each one of us sitting on these benches, has suffered indignities and humiliations at the hands of the police.

Much has been said on the floor of the House about the police force and the India of the future. You want a contented police force. It is not a question of traitorous police in the sense in which my Honourable friend used the word. When the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party was speaking about the police force, who have misbehaved in the past in a traitorous manner, what implied was this. In the interests of the country they did not act but they acted at the behest of my Honourable friends over there but never in their past history have they acted in the interests of the country. That is what my Honourable Friend meant. In the future there will be no such accusation, if there is going to be a national government. They will be part and parcel of the

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

national government. The national government's policy will be a policy meant for the development of the nation and the police will be part and parcel of it. There will then be no question of behaving in a traitorous manner to their country. But at the present moment it is necessary to place on record that we on the Opposition Benches here stand for the just and proper treatment of the police force and the eradication of all their grievances not only in Delhi but throughout the Provinces. I am glad to say that the Bombay Government has taken a step, a logical step, a necessary step. Is my Honourable friend over there going to wake up from his lotus sleep and take the necessary steps in the interests of the police force?

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President, I had really no intention of participating in this debate, which, to my mind, should have been brought to a very speedy close but for the fact that various considerations not implied in the adjournment motion have crept into the debate. My Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall, has said that really the issue has been side-tracked and matters which were irrelevant to the adjournment motion moved by Mr. Asaf Ali have been given prominence and the real issue has been ignored. It appears to be his opinion that the real issue is that the police have some grievances, that they have had those grievances for a very long time and have at long last found an opportunity of ventilating those grievances by means of organising a sort of hunger strike and creating a situation which we have complained about in the course of this debate. But to my mind, Sir, the facts on which the adjournment motion is based are few and meagre. Comparing the two versions given by the two sides to the debate, I mean to say the version which was originally given by Mr. Asaf Ali and which has been amplified today, and the version which has been given by the Honourable the Home Member, it appears that the trouble was really created by the incident of no lorry having been sent to fetch back the Police from the Reserve Bank, some altercation between the Head Constable and a Constable, the subsequent report to the Reserve Inspector, and the Reserve Inspector's action trying to hush up the matter in a practical way without giving a formal shape to the complaint of the Head Constable and inflicting a formal punishment on the Constable who appeared to have behaved cheekily to the Head Constable. It appears, Sir, that if these were the only facts which led to what happened in Delhi on that day, we cannot be justified in inferring from these facts that this is the result of long-standing grievances of the Police as regards their pay and the low standard of living at which they were being compelled to live and all that. In fact when I think of the expression used by Diwan Chaman Lall that the discussion has been side-tracked, it appears that really my Honourable friends on my right have thought of the grievances of the Police rather late in the day. They were tabling all kinds of token cut motions about many reforms in the administration which they wanted, and economy cut motions to prove the shortcomings of the administration and thereby urging refusal of the demands for certain grants and all that but there appears to be no reason why, if the grievances of the Police were so real and so genuine, not cut motion on that point was moved by any member of the Congress Party.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Because of the shortness of time.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: We take the view that either the Congress Party did not know at all what the grievances were or they did not attach any importance to them.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is true that we have come to know about the grievances only now.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: I think the scale of pay for the policemen is well-known to everyone in this House. The allowances which they get are

quite well-known. Their grievances, if the only basis of these grievances was the smallness of their pay and the pettiness of their allowances, the arrangements made for their mess and all that, if these were the only things on which their grievances are based and the situation has developed, I think these were well-known matters. It is too late for my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali to say that they did not know these things. Everybody in this House knew all these things quite well. It appears really that the true point of view to urge in this debate, and the policy to be adopted in this House, is that which has been so eloquently pointed out by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. We must not encourage insubordination in the ranks of the Police or the Army by moving adjournment motions to censure the Government whenever there is some quarrel or disturbance.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I strongly repudiate the suggestion that I moved this motion to encourage indiscipline anywhere.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: I must at once disclaim any intention on my own part to suggest that my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, or his Party had the intention of encouraging insubordination. I say it has the effect of encouraging insubordination, and this sort of spirit of insubordination, if we breed it by moving and passing adjournment motions in this House at the present stage of our political development, is going to act as a boomerang against ourselves in the future political advancement of this country. Surely, whatever form of government may succeed the present government, we shall have a Police, we shall have an Army, we shall have certain services. And, as has been very well pointed out in the course of this debate, the scales of pay cannot be enhanced and the prospects of Government servants, cannot be improved very much without burdening the country with more taxation, without securing more income in order to pay these enhanced expenses. So, this question will arise in the future as well, and the administration of the future will be face to face with the necessity of dealing with such matters in future, so that, if strikes, hunger-strikes and all these things go on and are indirectly encouraged by ourselves by moving and passing adjournment motions, I think we shall be acting against the interests of the country as regards its future administration. I would therefore rather repeat the suggestion which has already been made, that my Honourable friend the mover may consider the advisability of withdrawing the adjournment motion and allowing things to rest where they are.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Before I put the question I wish to inform the House that it has been suggested here that an agreement has been reached between all the parties that the question hour for the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 26th March will be dispensed with and the question put down for oral replies on the 26th March, will be transferred to the 27th March when they will be answered orally. Questions originally put down for oral answers for the 27th March will be treated as unstarred questions for that day and their answers together with the answers to the unstarred questions for the 27th March, will be printed in the official report of the Legislative Assembly Debates of that date. I suppose this agreement has been reached between the different parties and different sections of the House. This will stand as an agreed thing. There will be no oral questions on the 26th.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The Assembly divided.

AYES—54.

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.
 Adityan, Sri S. T.
 Asar Ali, Mr. M.
 Ayangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
 Baherjee, Sree Satyapriya.
 Bose Shri Sarat Chandra.
 Chaman Lall, Diwan.
 Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
 Choudhury, Sreejot Rohini Kumar.
 Daga, Seth Sheodass.
 Dani, Mr. G. B.
 Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
 Gangaraju, Sri V.
 Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
 Gole, Mr. P. B.
 Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.
 Govind Das, Seth.
 Hans Raj, Raizada.
 Hiray, Sjt. B. S.
 Jagannathdas, Sri.
 Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. R.
 Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
 Karmarkar, Shri D. P.
 Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
 Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dharendra Kanta.
 Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
 Malaviya, Pandit Govind.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Masani, Mr. M. R.
 Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
 Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
 Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
 Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.
 Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt.
 Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.
 Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.
 Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.
 Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.
 Salve, Mr. P. K.
 Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
 Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
 Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
 Sharma Pandit Balkrishna.
 Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
 Sri Prakasa, Shri.
 Sukhdev Seth.
 Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
 Thakur Das Bhargava, Pundit.
 Vadilal Lalubhai, Mr.
 Varma, Mr. B. B.
 Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.

NOES—54.

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.
 Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
 Ayers, Mr. C. W.
 Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
 Banerjee, Mr. R. N.
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
 Bewoor, Sir Gurnath.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
 Cook, Mr. B. C. A.
 Greenfield, Mr. H.
 Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
 Himatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
 Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
 Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
 Inskip, Mr. A. C.
 Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.
 Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee,
 Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
 Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
 Mason, Mr. P.
 Mohammad Amir Ahmad, Khan Bahadur
 Raja.
 Morris, Mr. R. C.
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
 Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
 Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
 Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
 Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
 Sargent, Sir John.
 Sen, Mr. B. R.
 Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
 Sheehy, Sir John.
 Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
 Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafuiddin Ahmad.
 Solanki, Dr. P. G.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
 Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
 Turner, Mr. A. C.
 Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
 Weightman, Mr. H.
 Yusuf Abdooh Haroon, Seth.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

Mr. Deputy President: The result of the voting is:

Ayes 54.

Noes 54.

The Chair must vote for the *Status quo*. The Noes have it.

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 26th March, 1946.