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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume II, 1945

(28th February to 13th March, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

President :

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

Deputy President :

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

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Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

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Committee on Petitions :

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

Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

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

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 5th March, 1945

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Robert Howell Hutchings, C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Secretary, Food Department).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

APPLICATIONS FOR INCREASE IN NEWS PRINT QUOTAS BY *TARJUMAN-I-SARHAD* AND *KHIDMAT*.

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

(a) whether applications for increase in News Print quotas have been made by the *Tarjuman-i-Sarhad*, Peshawar, and the *Khidmat*, Srinagar, Kashmir;

(b) the quota actually granted and the increased quota now demanded; and

(c) the action taken on the above applications and the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) An application for an increase in the quota of newsprint has been received in respect of the *Khidmat* of Srinagar. No such application for increased quota has been received from the *Tarjuman-i-Sarhad* of Peshawar, who has only recently been granted a ration.

(b) The *Khidmat* of Srinagar is at present in receipt of a ration of 24 lbs. of newsprint per month plus usual 50 per cent. increase. It has asked for the quota to be increased to 1½ tons per month.

(c) The request of the *Khidmat* of Srinagar was, according to the general procedure adopted in all such cases, referred to the Government of the Kashmir State on the 1st May 1944 for their views.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: With reference to the *Tarjuman-i-Sarhad* of Peshawar, may I know whether the matter has been referred to the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, no such application has been received.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what is the general procedure in these matters? Is the increase given only on the recommendation of the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is not the only consideration. There are many other factors.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the other factors?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The newsprint position, the available supplies, the demands that have to be met, the extent of the demand that can be met in a particular area and so on.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the politics of the paper also taken into consideration?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Not in my Department.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT TARIFF BOARD

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

(a) whether Government propose to set up a permanent Tariff Board to examine the question of protection to industries;

(b) whether they propose a revision of basic principles laid down by the Fiscal Commission for the grant of protection; if so, what the matters are over which revision is proposed; and

(c) whether there are cases of any industries ready to be placed before the permanent Tariff Board; if so, what those industries are?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). These matters are receiving Government's consideration.

(c) No, Sir. The latter part does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know when Government expect to come to a conclusion in regard to this?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can assure my friend that we have been trying our level best to come to a decision as soon as possible.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have made up their mind with regard to the basic principles for the grant of protection?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is one of the questions under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that this Assembly passed a Resolution as long as eight years ago recommending to Government the establishment of a permanent Tariff Board?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I was not born in this House then.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (b)? What are the matters in regard to which revision is proposed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: All these matters are receiving consideration.

REDUCTION IN PRICE OF MOTOR SPIRIT AND KEROSENE

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

- (a) whether the price of Motor Spirit was recently reduced and by how much;
- (b) whether any reduction has been effected in the price of kerosene; and
- (c) if not, why no such reduction could be made?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes. One and a half anna per gallon ex-main Port Local Pump.

(b) and (c). No current costs of importation and distribution of Kerosene did not permit of any price reduction on this occasion.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know why the Government has not been able to effect a reduction in the price of kerosene which is being used by the majority of poor people in this country?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: They do not care for the poor people.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As my Honourable friend knows, the price of kerosene is fixed having regard to the two factors of costs of importation and distribution.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know whether there has been any improvement in the kerosene position in the country.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There has not been any improvement but we have tried to give a little more supply, by adding 10 per cent. for the winter months.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that His Majesty's Government are the owners of the Anglo-Persian and other oil companies which are sending oil and kerosene to this country, will Government consider making a representation with regard to the need for reducing kerosene prices for the poor of this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will consider the matter.

ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPROVEMENT TRUST FOR AJMER

645. *Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that in 1938 a special officer was appointed to hold a departmental enquiry and bring together all facts bearing on the public health condition in the Ajmer City?

(b) Is it a fact that the special officer had strongly recommended the establishment of an Improvement Trust for the Ajmer Town in order to remove congestion and improve housing condition?

(c) What steps have Government taken or propose to take in accordance with this recommendation?

(d) Are Government aware that any delay in the formation of an Improvement Trust will make the problem of acquiring lands more and more difficult as new colonies are growing around the city and new houses are being built in the city itself?

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

(c) Consideration of the question of establishing an Improvement Trust for Ajmer City has been postponed in view of the conditions arising out of the war.

(d) Yes.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: In view of the fact that Ajmer is a very congested and dirty city, is it the intention of Government to set up this Improvement Trust as quickly as possible?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We put off the idea of establishing an Improvement Trust for the duration of the war. The matter will certainly have to be considered.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Am I to understand that even preliminary inquiries will not be made by the Government with regard to this Trust?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know what preliminary inquiry the Honourable Member has in mind.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: In order to work out a scheme at a later stage, when Government decide to take up the Improvement Trust formation, will they not appoint a special officer to go into the details of the thing and prepare a comprehensive scheme?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: When the formation of the Trust is decided upon, there will have to be some preliminary inquiry.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: It means that the Government are not prepared to have an Improvement Trust.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It does not mean that. We will consider that.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: When is Government likely to decide on the formation of the Improvement Trust?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot say when.

FACILITIES FOR HIGHER TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS OF AJMER MERWARA

646. Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that there are no adequate facilities for students of Ajmer-Merwara to receive higher technical education; e.g., Engineering Medical, etc., on account of which local youngmen have to suffer great disabilities?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to meet this need of Ajmer-Merwara? If none, why?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No. Government have been awarding scholarships to Students of Ajmer-Merwara for higher studies in Agriculture, Engineering and Medicine.

(b) The question of providing increased facilities is under consideration in connection with post-war educational development in the Centrally administered areas.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know how many Government scholarships have been given to Engineering and other students?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Ten during the last three years.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee: There is a large workshop connected with the B., B. and C. I. Railway in Ajmer. Will Government consider the possibility of making technical training available to students of Ajmer-Merwara in these railway workshops?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That will be one of the possible lines of approach.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee: Some of the facilities given by the Railway have been completely withdrawn and if that is so, will Government look into the matter and try to restore these facilities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will look into that.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: How many scholarships have been given by the Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Ten in the last three years.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: How much has been spent by Government?

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

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Have any scholarships been given to women to study medicine?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Two of the ten were for women. I think they were both medical students.

NEED FOR MORE STATE HOSPITALS IN AJMER-MERWARA

647. *Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that the Victoria Hospital is the only civil hospital in Ajmer-Merwara and that it is quite inadequate to meet the demands of this Province both as regards staff and equipment with the result that the people of this Province have to suffer much inconvenience and hardship?

(b) Is it a fact that as far back as 1930, Government intended to take over this hospital (*vide* Foreign and Political Department Memorandum No. F-458-A/38, dated the 18th April, 1930), but this intention has not been carried into effect so far?

(c) Are Government aware that, while the sister Provinces of Baluchistan, Coorg and Delhi possess, respectively, 31, 11 and 4 first class State hospitals, there is none in Ajmer-Merwara?

(d) If the replies to (a), (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, do Government propose to take immediate steps to remedy this defect so that the people of Ajmer-Merwara may be able to get adequate Medical relief?

(e) Has any additional grant to the Victoria Hospital been made in order to meet the increased cost of medicine and maintenance, etc.? If not, why not?

(f) Do Government propose to debit the repairing, cleaning and whitewashing charges of the Victoria Hospital to the Central Public Works Department so that the money thus released may be utilized for providing other urgent needs of the hospital?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, As an immediate measure of relief the question of appointing two more Assistant Surgeons at the Victoria Hospital is under consideration.

(b) The proposal was considered but was not pursued owing to financial stringency.

(c) The number of first class state hospitals in the Provinces of Baluchistan, Coorg and Delhi are seven, two and one respectively.

(d) The question of providing further medical relief for Ajmer-Merwara will be considered.

(e) The cost of all medicines excluding special drugs is met by Government and as compared with 1941-42 about Rs. 3,000 more was spent on medicines during subsequent years to meet increased cost.

(f) The suggestion made by the Honourable Member will be considered by Government.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know, Sir, if there is a separate hospital for women in Ajmer? If there is none, will Government consider the proposal to start one?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There is not a separate hospital for women. As regards the future, I should like first to see what the Bhoze Committee recommends.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know, Sir, if there is a woman doctor attached to the General Hospital to help women patients?

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

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: There is a lady doctor on the staff of the Victoria Hospital.

INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY OF AJMER

648. *Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that the water supply of Ajmer is not only wholly inadequate to meet the demands of the growing population but is also totally impure and the pressure in the mains is so low that water cannot reach the newly developed areas in the suburbs?

(b) Are Government aware that the sanitary condition in Ajmer is very bad on account of lack of drainage?

(c) Is it a fact that on account of impure water and defective drainage, Ajmer, has, within recent years, on account of a large increase in the population had recurring outbreaks of cholera, malaria and that the incidence of tuberculosis is also on an alarming increase?

(d) Why have the schemes for improvements of sanitation and water supply in Ajmer by the provision of a scientific system of drainage and an adequate supply of filtered water which had been sanctioned by the Government and on which a good amount had already been spent been suspended for the duration of war?

(e) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to release the necessary funds and materials for the purpose so that the scheme for drainage and water supply may be taken in hand without delay?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) to (e). Yes. The water supply and drainage disposal arrangements of Ajmer are not satisfactory. To put them on a satisfactory basis a scheme was sanctioned, but its execution has been held up owing to the difficulty in war-time of obtaining essential material such as pipes and cement required for the purpose. The scheme can be taken up only when conditions improve and essential material becomes available.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: How long will the Government take to move in the matter? Do they not consider this scheme as inescapable and so it must be put into execution soon?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It was not considered inescapable.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Why not? Has not the public health of the Province suffered during all these years? For how long has this scheme been pending?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am quite prepared to admit that the health has suffered, but the detailed estimates for this scheme were received only in 1942.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the Government attempted to bore a tube well in the vicinity of Ajmer and that the scheme failed because no water was found?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I believe a tube well was sunk. It was not sunk by my Department. I believe it was an experimental measure. It was not a success.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: I understand that the material is now available. Will the Government kindly make enquiries and take up the scheme in hand immediately?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We made enquiries, but we were informed that material was not available.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: When was the enquiry made last?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: About half way through 1944, I think.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Will the Honourable Member please pay a visit to Ajmer in the near future and see things for himself.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot promise that.

NOMINATION OF INDIAN CHRISTIAN TO DELHI MUNICIPALITY, ETC.

649. *Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that no non-official Indian Christian has been nominated a Member of the Delhi Municipal Committee after April, 1931?

(b) In view of the fact that the Indian Christian Community is the third largest in numbers and as, under the rules, no Indian Christian can stand for election from any of the Municipal Wards of Delhi, do Government propose to nominate an Indian Christian to the Delhi Municipal Committee?

(c) Are Government aware that no Indian Christian (non-official) has ever been nominated a Member of the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Notified Area Committee, Civil Lines, Delhi?

(d) In view of the large number of Indian Christians living within the limits of the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Notified Area Committee, Civil Lines, Delhi, do Government propose to nominate an Indian Christian on each of these two Committees to represent the interests of the community?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, but I may perhaps mention that the Honourable Member was himself a member of the Delhi Municipal Committee from April 1931 to October 1944 in his capacity of Superintendent of Education, Delhi.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to rule 1.3 of the Delhi Municipality Election Rules 1944 under which an Indian Christian can now stand for election to any of the non-muslim constituencies.

(c) Yes.

(d) The claims of Indian Christians will be kept in mind whenever appointments have to be made, but it must be remembered that both the local bodies mentioned have generally a substantial Christian element among the members appointed by virtue of office.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: In view of the reply given by the Honourable Member, does he claim to represent the European Group in this House?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Then, how can I be taken to represent the Indian Christians in the municipality?

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

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is it a fact that the Indian Christian community presented a memorandum before the Simon Commission saying that they did not want a separate electorate?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I want notice of that question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: When were these disqualifications removed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Under the rules of 1944.

+650*—652*

DIFFICULTIES OF OVERSEAS INDIAN STUDENTS SEEKING ADMISSION TO COLLEGES IN INDIA

653. *Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian students from Overseas, particularly from South and East Africa, experience great difficulties when seeking admission to colleges in India and those desirous of joining Engineering and Medical Colleges are required to pay heavy capitation fees? If so, what action has the Honourable Member taken to remove those difficulties, and what is the amount, in different cases; of the capitation fees and what measures has the Honourable Member taken to relieve the Indian students from overseas of this burden?

(b) Is it a fact that in the case of students from various Provinces in India studying at universities other than those of their own, such capitation fees are paid by the Governments of those students' respective Provinces? If so, has the Honourable Member approached the Union and East African Governments and asked them that they also should bear their due burden in this connection? If not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that the authority for the nomination of Indian students from South and East Africa to the seats reserved for them in colleges in India

*This question has been postponed to be answered on the 26th March, 1945.

is vested in the High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa and the Indian Trade Commissioner at Mombassa, and not in an educational authority in this country who alone can be expected to make nominations on the basis of merit? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to see that the deserving candidates get their due?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Information regarding colleges other than Engineering and Medical colleges is being collected and will be supplied when received. As regards Engineering and Medical colleges, the Government of India have persuaded the Governments of Bombay, Madras, the United Provinces and Bihar to reserve eleven seats in some Medical colleges and six seats in some Engineering colleges in these provinces for Indian students from South Africa and East Africa. The capitation and extra fees for these seats are as follows:

Bombay colleges.—Capitation fee Rs. 700 per annum per medical student and tuition fee Rs. 200 per annum per engineering student.

Madras colleges.—Twice the normal tuition fees.

U. P. colleges.—Capitation fee Rs. 1,000 per annum per medical or engineering student.

Bihar colleges.—Nil.

Students not belonging to the respective provinces are not allowed admission to their colleges without the payment of these fees and I am therefore unable to have this condition removed. I understand that Indian students from South Africa and East Africa who are able to avail themselves of these vacancies have either their own means or can obtain scholarship or assistance from charitable funds to meet the extra charges. I shall be prepared to consider sympathetically any reasonable suggestions regarding relief which the Honourable Member may make.

(b) The information required in the first part of the question is being collected and will be supplied when received. I shall consider the suggestion made in the second part of the question.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. It is presumed that the High Commissioner and the Trade Commissioner consult local educational authorities in making their nominations. I shall however have the matter examined.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will these seats which have been reserved in India be subject to communal allotment?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I believe not.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Then, how will the Honourable Member divide these seats in the case of Muslim candidates and Hindu candidates who might come from South Africa?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am glad that kind of sentiment does not exist in South Africa.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is not a fact that there are no colleges for Indians in South Africa?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Perhaps not.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member tell me if discrimination is not exercised with regard to white boys and brown boys for admission to South African colleges in the matter of education?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I believe that is so.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the Aligarh University has got special quota for South African students who are charged no capitation fee?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am grateful for that information.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member tell me to whom does the capitation fee go?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I want notice.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: How does the capitation or decapitation fee prescribed?

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

MANUFACTURE OF RADIO SETS.

654. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What steps has the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies taken in order to bring about or encourage the manufacture of a number of radio sets in India?

(b) Have Government been approached by any firms or companies intending to carry on this industry?

(c) If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, who were these firms and what were their proposals?

(d) How many radio sets have been imported into India since the beginning of the war and what were the lowest and the highest selling prices of these radio sets?

(e) What special facilities have Government provided for the importation of radio spare parts for repairs to existing radio sets?

(f) What was the total number of licence-holders of radio sets in 1944-45, and how does this figure compare with the pre-war number?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (e). Radio sets and accessories are not at present being manufactured in India and the question is receiving consideration. In this connection all possible assistance is being given to firms' representatives, who have approached Government, to proceed overseas in order to explore the possibilities of starting the industry in India, provided Government are satisfied with the *bona fides* of the firms. In the meantime import of sets and spare parts are being arranged. The supply position in the exporting countries is very tight but Government are endeavouring to get as large an apportionment for India as is possible in the circumstances.

(b) Yes.

(c) *First Part:*

Messrs. Radio & Electricals Ltd., Madras.

Messrs. Motwane Radio Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Bombay

Messrs. Radios Ltd., Bombay.

Consent for issue of capital under long range conditions has been given to the first two of these companies. An application on the same terms from the third is under consideration.

Second Part: Establishment of factories for the assembly and the manufacture of radio sets, spare parts and accessories.

(d) *First Part:* About 1.45,000 up to the end of October 1944 (Later figures are not available).

Second Part: Information in regard to all types of sets is not available. So far as Government are aware, prices ranged from about Rs. 100 to Rs. 1,300.

(f) Upto the 31st December 1944, 193,676. Upto the 31st August 1939, 79,590.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that transmitting sets and radio sets are of extreme importance for security purposes, will Government give an assurance to this House that before very long, in the next two or three years and before the next war starts, they will have this manufacture established in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If I knew when the next war would start I could have given that answer. But Government have been proceeding with a view to developing radio in this country, and a considerable amount of radio research and the machinery required has been going on in this country.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If adequate private enterprise does not come forward, will my Honourable friend assure this House that Government themselves will set up this manufacture for security purposes?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is a question of post-war policy which is under consideration along with others.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will there be any security considerations even in post-war?

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

MEAT DEHYDRATION FACTORIES

655. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the number of meat dehydrating factories in India together with the names of places where they are situated;

(b) how many of them are for *jhatka* meat together with the names of places where they are situated;

(c) whether the process of dehydration has proved to be a success in this country, and how much dehydrated meat has been found so far to be unfit for human consumption from the various factories; and

(d) whether it is a fact that some factories have been closed after some time; if so, how many and which of them?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) There are nine meat dehydration factories in operation or under construction in India, situated at Madras, Ranipet, Anantapur, Poona, Patna, Delhi, Agra, Amritsar and Nowshera (N.-W.F.P.)

(b) Of these, four are *Jhatka* meat factories situated at Madras, Ranipet, Poona and Amritsar.

(c) (i) The process of dehydration of meat has proved successful in this country.

(ii) Only a quantity of 31 tons, produced at the Amritsar meat factory in 1943, was found later to be unfit for the Defence Forces.

(d) Only one factory has been temporarily closed for remodelling.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is all this dehydrated meat used by the army or is a part of it consumed by the civilian population also?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: It is entirely for the Defence forces.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are these factories Government-owned and operated or are they given to contractors?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: New ones are all Government-owned and operated.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that the factory at Nowshera has brought about a great increase in the price of meat in the N.-W. F. P. where it is an ordinary article of food?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that after this factory was set up the price of meat has gone up to something like Rs. 2-4-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 a seer?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I am not aware, Sir.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the hardship involved to the Frontier people, will the Honourable Member consider the question of removing this factory to some other province where the people are mostly vegetarians?

(No reply was given.)

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that great hardship is caused to the civilian population, on account of these dehydration factories, by raising the price of meat? Even in Delhi where the price was only six annas a seer it is now Rs. 1-8-0.

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I submit that whether that is due to the dehydration factories is a matter of opinion; my own opinion is that it is not entirely due to that.

STANDARD CLOTH, ETC., FOR BENGAL

†**656. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chatteropadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the total quantity of Standard Cloth in yards supplied to Bengal during 1943-44, and up to February 15, 1945?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the total production of (i) *Dhoties* 5 yds. and *Saries* 5 yds. by Bengal Mills during 1943-44 and supply to Bengal of *Dhoties* and *Saries* 5 yds. each from other Provinces during 1943-44?

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

(c) What is the total quantity of cloth—*Dhoties* and *Sarees* required for Bengal for use of adults i.e., 5 yds. each?

(d) Was the supply sufficient for the requirements of Bengal?

(e) What was the control price of *dhoties* and *sarees* supplied to Bengal during 1943 and 1944?

(f) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that *dhoties* and *sarees* are not available in Calcutta market except in black market?

(g) How many hoarder and profiteers in textile trade in Bengal have been prosecuted and what punishment has been meted out to them? Will the Honourable Member lay on the table of the House a statement on the present textile position in Bengal giving a list of the textile traders punished for blackmarketing and hoarding?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The total yardage of Standard Cloth supplies to Bengal from the 1st January, 1943 to the 31st December, 1944, is 169,880,377 yards and from 1st January, 1945 to the 15th February, 1945 is 9,596,871 yards.

(b) No information is available regarding the total production of *Dhoties* 5 yards of *Sarees* 5 yards by Bengal Mills during 1943-44 nor of the supplies to Bengal of *Dhoties* and *Sarees* 5 yards each from other provinces during 1943-44.

(c) No separate statistics regarding the requirements of *Dhoties* and *Sarees* in Bengal are available either in the Textile Commissioner's office or in the office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.

(d) No. There was certainly some shortage.

(e) I lay on the table a list of control prices of typical varieties of *Dhoties* and *Sarees* supplied to Bengal during 1943 and 1944.

(f) No. Government is however aware that black-marketing has been rampant in Calcutta, particularly in the wholesale trade.

(g) 437 prosecutions were sanctioned up to the 20th February, 1945. 295 cases convicted and 22 cases were acquitted. I shall lay on the table of the House a list of the textile traders punished in Bengal for black-marketing and hoarding when received.

List of typical varieties of Dhoties and Sarees for Bengal during 1943-44

Quality	Dimension	Trade No.	Exmill		Retail		Unit
			Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	
Chool and Quarter P. Dhoty	44" × 10 yds.	2699 3099	5	9 0	6	11 0	Pair
½' Fancy dhoty	44" × 10 "	2399	5	12 0	6	14 0	"
½' Dhoty	44" × 10 "	13½ × 13½	6	12 0	8	2 0	"
Super K. Dooty	44" × 10 "	21½ × 21½	6	11 0	8	0 0	"
1½' Plain Sadi	44" × 10 "	32 × 32	6	11 0	8	0 0	"
2½' Plain Sadi	44" × 10 "	31½ × 31½	7	1 0	8	8 0	"
2½' Fancy Sadi	44" × 10 "	617	7	15 0	9	8 0	"
3' Fancy Sadi	44" × 10 "	717	8	7 0	10	2 0	"
3' Jacquard Sadi	44" × 10 "	VASANTI	8	11 0	10	7 0	"
2½' Plain Sadi	44" × 10 "	25½ × 25½	8	9 0	10	4 0	"
2' Fancy Sadi	44" × 10 "	32½ × 32½	8	10 0	10	6 0	"
2½' Fancy Sadi	44" × 10 "	33½ × 33½	9	3 0	11	0 0	"
3' Fancy Sadi	44" × 10 "	34½ × 34½	11	5 0	13	9 0	"

These are basic prices and in 1944 three reductions, viz., 9 3/8 per cent 9 3/8 per cent and 6½ per cent respectively were made.

INFORMAL RATIONING IN DISTRICTS OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY

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

(a) whether informal rationing is going to be introduced in Coimbatore and other districts in the Madras Presidency; and

(b) whether it is true that in such rationing, while Government will take away all surplus grain from the producers do not guarantee its supply to them throughout the year?

Mr. B. H. Hutchings: (a) Yes.

(b) Since the surplus only is taken, the question of its return later in the year does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that under this scheme the agriculturists are provided only for three months and not for the whole year?

Mr. B. H. Hutchings: No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if it is a part of the informal rationing? Surely he must be aware of that.

Mr. B. H. Hutchings: The scheme is that the surplus is taken; that is to say, Government leave with the producer what they consider to be necessary for him for the remainder of the year. If the producer does not produce enough for himself, not only is the stuff not taken from him but arrangements are made to supply him with the grain he needs.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will he consider this matter that if the provision made for him is only for three months Government should amend it so that a whole year's provision may be left for him?

Mr. B. H. Hutchings: I will bring that to the notice of the Government of Madras.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the distinction between informal rationing and compulsory rationing?

Mr. B. H. Hutchings: There is very little distinction in practice except that in formal rationing Government undertake a statutory obligation to provide the ration. In informal rationing they are under no statutory obligation to provide a specified amount of ration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How is the quantity to be allotted to the peasant? Is it the same as in the case of other people or is it something else?

Mr. B. H. Hutchings: As to the method of calculation in Madras I would refer the Honourable Member to the report of the Honourable Mr. Somerset Butler on this subject, a copy of which is in the Library.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member supply me with a copy?

Mr. B. H. Hutchings: I shall be happy to do so.

UNIT OF FOODGRAINS RATIONING IN VILLAGES

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

(a) whether a ration of one lb. per individual is calculated for rationing foodgrains in villages; whether it refers to rice only or all foodgrains;

(b) whether he has received any representations from any Government or otherwise that one lb. of grains is absolutely insufficient for peasants and others working on the fields; and

(c) whether he proposes to consider the advisability of increasing this by another half a pound at least to producers of foodgrains, when calculations are made with reference to taking off the surplus grain from them?

Mr. B. H. Hutchings: (a) A one lb. ration means one lb. of all the cereals included in the group ration. Where, however, rice only is rationed it means one lb. of rice.

(b) One such representation has been received but not from any Government.

(c) The Government of India have already advised Provincial Governments to be generous in estimating the quantity of foodgrains which a producer should be allowed to retain for his own consumption.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they recommended any rate in the matter of generosity?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: We have not laid down a rate from the Centre, but I understand that in Madras the practice is to give one pound.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that Madras is a deficit province and rice is to be supplied by the Government of India to meet the deficit, is the Honourable Member aware that they cannot increase it unless the Government of India undertake to supply the extra amount required?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir, we shall do our best to supply whatever the Madras Government ask us to supply.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have Government received any representations from the Madras Government as to the extra amount necessary beyond this one pound?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir, not so far.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Halljee: What is the rice ration in Bengal per individual?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: In Calcutta it is eight pounds per week.

LIVE-STOCK CENSUS

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

(a) when the last census of live-stock was taken, what the result of that census was;

(b) whether live-stock has increased or decreased in the country; and whether Government are in a position to give any figures for such increase or decrease; and

(c) what attempts are made by the Government of India to increase live-stock?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The last all-India quinquennial live-stock census was held in January-February, 1945 and the result is awaited.

(b) In the absence of the figures, it is not possible for Government to say definitely whether the number of cattle has increased or decreased.

(c) Provincial Governments have been advised to restrict the slaughter of useful cattle and to take steps for their proper feeding, breeding and maintenance.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Have the Government of Bengal carried out the instructions issued by Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No instructions were issued by Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (a)?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The census was in January and February of this year and the figures are not yet available.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the results of the census be placed on the table of the House?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir.

INADEQUATE CLOTH QUOTA FOR BENGAL

660. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Textile Commissioner allocated cloth to Bengal on the basis of only 10 yds. per person as against 18 yds. for Bombay, Punjab and Delhi provinces;

(b) on what basis this quota has been allocated;

(c) the total yardage of cloth allotted to the whole population of Bengal;

(d) whether he is aware that the local production of textile through mills as well as hand-looms is inadequate to meet the requirements of the Bengal population;

(e) whether he is aware that out of the allotted quota appreciable quantities of cloth are being diverted to the manufacture of ready-made garments for the military and auxiliary personnel and to meet the requirements of the Red Cross and other hospitals;

(f) whether he is aware that export of cloth from the Bengal area to China is also taking place;

(g) whether he is aware that even from the low quota given to Bengal, the actual quantity available to the Bengal population will be less than 10 yds. per head;

(h) in this connection whether he is aware that originally the quota was fixed on the basis of 12 yds. of cloth per head for all the Provinces; if so, the reasons which were responsible for the subsequent allocation of 10 yds. per head to Bengal; and

(i) whether he proposes to investigate the matter and see that a larger quota is allotted to Bengal?

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

(b) The basis was the estimated pre-war consumption which is believed to have been between ten and twelve yards per head per annum. I would also refer the Honourable Member to my answer to part (b) of starred question No. 175 of the 13th February.

(c) The allocation is not made to the Bengal Province separately, but to the Bengal Deficit Zone which includes also Assam, the Bengal States and the Assam States. The total allocation made from outside the zone is 21,750 bales, i.e., 82,625,000 yards per month. The remainder is made up from local production which is approximately half and half handloom and millmade. The total allotment is 725,130,000 yards per annum for a total population of 72,513,000.

(d) Yes. Inadequacy of the local production is the reason for the allocation of 21,750 bales per month from outside referred to in my answer to part (c).

(e) I have no information of the quantities involved. The possibility of making a special allotment outside the quota for these purposes is at present, however, under consideration.

(f) Exports to China even if bought in the Bengal area would not come out of the Provincial quota but out of the quota allotted for export.

(g) No. The Bengal population generally speaking should obtain the 10 yards per head allotted to it. In fact, for the latest period, viz., five months ending November 1944, the total cotton cloth made available to Bengal was at the rate of 13.9 yards per head per annum.

(h) This is not correct.

(i) The matter is at present under investigation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India propose to introduce individual rationing in cloth?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not possible for the Government of India to introduce individual rationing for about four hundred millions of population.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With reference to part (f) of the question, is the Honourable Member aware that during recent months, and also perhaps during the last year, considerable quantity of cloth was actually smuggled out of India for the benefit of China?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir I have no information about the things which were smuggled. This information ought to be at the disposal of the Provincial Government.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that a large quantity of cloth has gone into Burma?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir. I am not aware of it.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is it a fact that the customs authorities who are expected to prevent such smuggling are entirely under the control of the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir. Customs is under the Government of India.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member make a reference to the custom authorities for the purpose of ascertaining whether the allegation which I have made is substantially correct?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will do so.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that it was possible for the Govern-

ment of India to introduce individual rationing in foodgrains in large parts of the country, may I ask why they consider it impossible for them to undertake individual rationing in cloth?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, my Honourable friend's previous question was not for individual rationing in certain places, but for the whole of India. If it is a question of individual rationing in certain big areas, the matter will be looked into.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to the recent proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly in which allegations were made that in several instances women-folk were reported to have committed suicide for their failure to secure cloth? Is he also aware that even shrouds for the dead are not available in the Eastern Provinces, particularly Assam?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have seen some reports like that, but it is very difficult for me to understand. I take it that everybody in this country does not purchase cloth and if one man in even three or four purchases cloth then every purchaser should be entitled to at least forty yards, if not fifty yards, and in place of that if I am told that the people are committing suicide I do not understand how things are happening.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Government consider the advisability of starting nudist colonies for the purpose of enabling those who are not members of such colonies to get sufficient cloth to cover their bodies?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite prepared to consider that if my Honourable friend will undertake to become officer in charge of that colony.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With reference to part (a) of the question, is it not a fact that this ten yards was supplemented by the cloth produced by handlooms and now the handlooms are not working on account of the absence of yarn?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not supplemented. The handlooms are functioning. As I explained last year, instead of 13,000 bales per month, which is the maximum demand put forth by the Provincial Government, the actual quantity supplied is over 8,000 bales per month. It is not a fact that handlooms have not been functioning. It is quite true that those handlooms which use fine yarns are not and have not been functioning as much, but so far as looms using other yarns are concerned, they ought to be functioning.

MICA COMMISSION.

661. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the object of appointing the Mica Commission?

(b) What were its terms of reference and composition?

(c) What assistance have Government rendered at any time to the mica producers of this country?

The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member presumably refers to the Mica Enquiry Committee. His attention is invited to Resolutions No. MD-55, dated 15th May, 1944 and 23rd October 1944, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the Indian Legislature.

(c) Under the Government of India Act 1935 Mineral Development is a Provincial subject except to such extent as is declared by a Federal law to be expedient in the public interest. No such federal law at present exists and Mineral Development has therefore been left entirely to Provincial Governments. But even so during the war the Central Government has given considerable assistance to mica producers in helping them to get supplies and by allowing the bonus on excess production to be free of excess profits tax.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that Government have controlled the price of mica and that bulk of the mica has been purchased both for this Government and for the Allied Governments at controlled prices, and that the control has been introduced by the Central Government?

The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar: Prices have been fixed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know how these prices compare with the pre-war prices?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They compare very favourably.

Mr. Manu Subedar: How much is the difference?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I must have notice of that question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Mica Commission is going to consider the conditions of work of the mica miners, and; if so, whether the miners are represented on the Mica Commission?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No, that is not one of the subjects which the Commission will make enquiries about.

Mr. G. W. Tyson: With reference to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member say whether he is satisfied that during the war, in which period the Central Government has had a good deal to do with the mica industry, Government has accorded protection to the mechanized mining companies which have suffered very heavy losses as a result of the illicit trade in mica?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is one of the reasons why the Committee was appointed.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know if the Maternity Benefit Act is applied to mica factories?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It applies to all mines.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Is it a fact that the Factories Act is not applied to mica splitting factories. If so, why?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no reason to believe that it is not applied.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I draw the attention of the Government to the report in the Trade Unions Record of September, 1944?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Probably that might need further corroboration.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member will make enquiries to find out whether the Factories Act applies to mica factories, or not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will make enquiries.

ABOLITION OF DISTINCTION BETWEEN ORTHODOX AND UN-ORTHODOX QUARTERS

* 662. **Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** (a) With reference to the Honourable the Labour Member's reply to the adjournment motion on the 10th February, 1945, regarding the abolition of the distinction between orthodox and unorthodox quarters, will he be pleased to state whether other Departments of Government were consulted and which and how many of the Departments of the Government of India were for and against the proposal to abolish the distinction?

(b) Has the Estate Officer been vested till now with the discretion to allot unorthodox quarters? If not, why has he now been vested with such discretion?

(c) What is the method or machinery by which the Estate Officer will be able to satisfy himself whether an applicant, who is an Indian, professes European habits and thus becomes eligible for a unit in the unorthodox quarters?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. Government do not consider it necessary to specify the Departments who were against or in favour of the proposal.

(b) No. The Estate Officer will have no discretion in the allotment of unorthodox quarters as Government have decided that a declaration by an applicant in respect of his style of living should be accepted without question.

(c) Does not arise.

ABOLITION OF DISTINCTION BETWEEN ORTHODOX AND UN-ORTHODOX QUARTERS

* 663. **Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether, according to his reply of the 10th instant in connection with the adjournment motion on the same subject, mentioned in the preceding question, it is proposed to disturb the provisional lien holders

of unorthodox quarters? If so, will they be allotted similar accommodation of the type to which they are eligible, if available?

(b) In the event of such higher category accommodation not being available, is it the intention to allow them as heretofore to continue in the type of house they are already in occupation until such time as the higher type accommodation is available? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) Yes.

SAVINGS IN FOODGRAINS OF SURPLUS AREAS DUE TO RATIONING SYSTEM.

664. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether there has been any saving in the foodgrains by the introduction of rationing system in the surplus areas like the Punjab and the United Provinces; and

(b) whether Government are aware that in rationed towns wheat or atta is sold at a higher price and is of comparatively worse quality than that sold in non-rationed towns?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) Yes, but the United Provinces was not a surplus province last year.

(b) No Sir, not as a general rule.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Can the Honourable Member give me any idea as to how much grain has been saved?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: It is impossible to calculate that.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Punjab Government has represented to the Government of India that rationing is not necessary in that province?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: They did represent, but they have undertaken to carry out rationing in the Punjab.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it not a fact that there is a shortage of wheat in the United Provinces which used to be a surplus province? What is the reason for that?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: There is a shortage of wheat in the United Provinces this year, and that was due to the loss of nearly 500,000 tons of wheat in the last week of March and the first week of April last year. The reason of the loss was climatic conditions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is this food rationing applied to all the towns in the United Provinces or only to some principal towns?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: It is not applied to all the towns, but it applies to a very great many of them.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know briefly by what process the Honourable Member has arrived at this exact figure of 500,000 tons?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: On the estimate of the Provincial Governments concerned.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Did this loss take place in Government godowns or in the fields.

(No answer was given by Mr. Hutchings.)

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Of course in the fields, due to climatic conditions.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The loss can be in the godowns also due to climatic conditions because the Government are most careless about their godowns.

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

PRICE OF IMPORTED WHEAT AT CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, ETC.

665. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the cost price and the market price of the imported wheat at Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi and Delhi; and

(b) whether the Government of India make any profit out of it; if so, to what extent?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) The present price of imported wheat at Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi is Rs. 9-3-0 per maund *ex-Port Trust Transit Shed* which is a 'pool price' based on the actuals for cost and freight to India, the estimated cost of clearing and bagging and a charge to cover Marine and War risk insurance. There is no "market price" for imported wheat at these places, as the towns are rationed and wheat is a controlled commodity. No imported wheat has so far been received in Delhi.

(b) The Government of India are not making any profit out of the import of foodgrains.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What is the actual cost price of imported wheat in these towns?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: In the case of Australian wheat up till last October it was Rs. 7/5 per maund. Since then the cost of Australian wheat has risen slightly and it is now Rs. 8/6 per maund.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any of the Provincial Governments making any profit?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: Has the Honourable Member any information as to what is the F. O. B. price of Australian wheat?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have some information but I would not like to give a categorical answer without notice, I think it is between Rs. 3 and Rs. 4.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the policy of the Government to push down the price of rice and wheat in India by importing Australian wheat at such a low price?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir.

DAMAGED FOODGRAINS

666. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) how much foodgrains had been damaged all over India during 1944; and
(b) whether these foodgrains were put in Government Stores, or were lying with licensed dealers?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) and (b). Complete information is not available with the Government of India.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know with reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a), whether this damage is in Government godowns also or only in open fields?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have said that complete information is unfortunately not readily available.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member please make a statement, on the basis of whatever information, complete or incomplete that there may be at the disposal of the Government?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir. I must ask for notice.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that enormous masses of foodgrains are ruined in Government godowns, will the Honourable Member please instruct the Provincial Governments to be more careful about their storage?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have already done so.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What reply has he received from the Provincial Governments to this?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: All the Provincial Governments are actively engaged on improving their storage.

SAFEGUARDING OF INDIAN INTEREST IN LIBERATED BURMA

667. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:**—(a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state what arrangements have been made for the purpose of safeguarding the interests, and promoting the welfare, of the Indian population in those parts of Burma which have already been liberated?

or are in the process of liberation, from the hands of the enemy? What is the approximate total number of Indian residents in the areas that have already been liberated?

(b) How many Indians, either official or non-official, have been permitted to proceed to these areas to contact and help the Indian population there in any manner? Has the Agent of the Government of India, attached to the Government of Burma, paid any visit to these areas as yet? What is his programme in this behalf?

(c) How many non-Indians, either official or non-official, have been permitted to contact and help the non-Indian population in these liberated areas?

(d) Are Indian businessmen, either with or without previous trade connection with Burma, being allowed to follow the conquering army into tracts of liberated Burma for the purpose of establishing trade contacts there? To what extent are non-Indian business interests getting such facilities?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to explain fully the plans and the programme of Government in the matter of rehabilitation of Indians residing in liberated portions of Burma?

(f) What financial provisions have been, or are being, made by the Government of India for these purposes?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Such liberated parts are at present under military administration and the South East Asia Command administers them through the Civil Affairs Service (Burma). They are responsible for safeguarding the interests of entire civil population of all classes in these areas. The number of Indian residents in these liberated parts is not known.

(b) and (c). No civilians of any nationality have so far been allowed to enter these areas. The Representative of the Government of India has not yet paid any visit to these areas.

(d) Up to the present no facilities have been given to private trading interests of any nationality to return to Burma.

(e) and (f). Government have this matter under examination but are not able to give any details before further information is available regarding the needs of the Indians in these areas.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know whether the Government of India maintains any liaison with the South East Asia Command for the purpose of keeping themselves informed about the position of Indians in liberated portions of Burma, and for the purpose of enabling them to draw up schemes of rehabilitation?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We are considering that question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I beg your pardon. I wanted to know whether any liaison is being maintained by the Government of India with the South East Asia Command.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We are finding out ways to maintain that liaison.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I take it that there is no liaison at the present moment between the Government of India and the South East Asia Command for the purpose of looking after the interests of India in Burma.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Not at present.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Not even in British occupied Burma?

Mr. Abdul Qalyum: May I know from the Honourable Member if the conditions under which the British or the Indian can return to occupied Burma are identical?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No conditions have been devised and I believe they will be identical.

Mr. Abdul Qalyum: The Honourable Member is giving me his opinion. Can the Honourable Member definitely tell me that as far as the conditions of return are concerned, there is no discrimination against Indians in favour of the British?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have answered that question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Well, I have read press reports that there is discrimination against Indians. Can the Honourable Member assure this House that the conditions of return for Indians and the British are identical in occupied Burma?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No one has yet been allowed to go there.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: It is not the correct answer. Undoubtedly there are some conditions laid down. Has the Honourable Member satisfied himself that the British and the Indian will be treated on par in the matter of return?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will satisfy myself.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: What is Mr. Jamnadas Mehta doing if he is not a Liaison Officer?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: He is attached to the Civil Government of Burma.

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

BREAK-DOWN OF TRADE DISPUTES ARBITRATION MACHINERY IN AHMEDA BAD

668. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware of the serious situation arising out of the break-down of the permanent machinery of arbitration for settlement of disputes between capital and industry in Ahmedabad?

(b) Is it not a fact that the break-down is viewed with grave concern by the Joint Representative Board of the Textile Labour Association of Ahmedabad?

(c) Do the Government of India propose to restore arbitration system? If not, why not?

(d) Is it not a fact that there is a written agreement of 1937 signed by both the Textile Labour Association and the Millowners' Association of Ahmedabad?

(e) Is it not a fact that the above said agreement is still unregistered and not acted upon by the Millowners' Association? If so, do Government propose to use their influence and power necessary to end the dispute?

(f) Does the Government of India propose to encourage and help the formation of a Labour Research Institute contemplated by the Textile Labour Association of Ahmedabad for the benefit of the working classes?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am aware of the existence of a trade dispute over bonus between the Textile Labour Association and the Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad, which has been taken up by the Chief Conciliator under the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938. I have no information regarding any break-down of the arbitration machinery and other matters referred to in the question all of which are the concern of the Provincial Government.

RECOVERY OF SAUDI DUES FROM HAJ PILGRIMS

669. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if the Government recovered from the Indian pilgrims of the last Haj, all the Saudi Government dues, including the conveyance and *muallam* charges in India? If so, on whose request was this done? Is it a fact that some years back, the Saudi Government had made a similar request for the recovery of their dues in India, but that was not agreed to by the Indian Government? If so, what are the reasons for agreeing to this request now?

(b) How many pilgrims from India paid the Saudi dues in India and what was the total amount so recovered? How much has been paid to the Saudi Government out of the amount recovered? Has the payment been made in terms of *Riyals*? If so, at what rate of exchange with rupees? At what rate of exchange were the dues recovered from the pilgrims?

(c) What were the items of dues charged from the pilgrims, and what was the amount charged per item from the pilgrims, in terms of rupees and in *Riyals*, separately? What was the rate of exchange of *Riyals* in the Hedjaz when the dues were recovered?

(d) Is it a fact that the pilgrims had to pay the dues at an increased rate of exchange of *Riyals* and that the increase was about annas six for a *Riyal*? If so, what is the total amount of the sum recovered from the pilgrims on account of the increased rate, and do Government propose to return the excess amounts recovered from the pilgrims in this way? If so, when, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes. It was done at the instance of the Government of Saudi Arabia. In 1939 the Government of India were merely asked by His Majesty's Government to express their views on the proposal. They did not agree to it and the matter was dropped. Last year they received definite instructions from His Majesty's Government to collect these dues. They, however, urged that pilgrims should have the option of paying in India or in the Hedjaz. His Majesty's Government replied that the system had already been adopted by other Muslim countries and that failure to comply with it would only result in complete confusion on the arrival of Indian pilgrims at Jeddah in addition to the risk of losing their money. The Government of India had thus no option in the matter last year.

(b) Saudi dues were charged from 4,642 pilgrims. The total amount recovered was Rs. 28,52,059-10-0 out of which Rs. 27,90,777-4-0 have been paid so far to the Government of Saudi Arabia. Payment has been made in rupees. Dues were collected at the rate of one rupee eleven annas per *Riyal*.

(c) The items charged for were Jeddah sanitation dues, boat hire, Saudi dues and transport charges at the following rates:

	<i>Riyal</i>	Rs. a. p.
(1) Jeddah sanitation dues and boat hire	53	90 10 0
(2) Saudi dues and transport charges including a visit to Medina by lorry.	615	1,040 12 0
(3) Saudi dues and transport charges including a visit to Medina by camel.	418	714 12 0
(4) Saudi dues and transport charges excluding a visit to Medina by lorry	260	444 4 0
(5) Saudi dues and transport charges excluding a visit to Medina by camel	189	323 6 0

Government have no information as regards the market rate of exchange of *Riyal* in the Hedjaz. The Saudi Government fixed the exchange rate at Re. 1 annas 11 per *Riyal*.

(d) Complaints have been received that 7 annas per *Riyal* were charged in excess. If this is correct pilgrims made an excess payment of about rupees 7 lakhs. The Saudi Arabia Government were asked to agree to the refund of the excess amount. The British Minister, Jeddah, replied that as other Muslim countries had accepted the rate, preferential treatment could not be accorded to Indians. The Government of India have however again pressed for the refund of the amount. The reply is awaited.

COMMUNIQUE RE SAUDI GOVERNMENTS LACK OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR PILGRIMAGE TO HEDJAZ.

670. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that a communique was issued by the Government during the last Haj season that no arrangements could be made by the Saudi Government for pilgrimage to the Hedjaz for journey to Medina? If so, will that communique or statement be laid on the table of the House?

(b) Is it a fact that all kinds of arrangements of conveyance, motors, buses and camels were provided to the Hajees in the Hedjaz, by the Saudi Government during the last Haj and that the Saudi Government did not write either to the British or to the Indian Government that no conveyance arrangements would be possible in the Hedjaz? If so, who is responsible for issuing that said communique and to give such a wrong information?

(c) Do Government know that on account of this wrong information many intending pilgrims did not proceed to Haj and had to postpone their journey?

(d) Do Government propose to avoid the recurrence of such matters in the future?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Such a *communiqué* was issued for the second Hajj sailing. A copy is laid on the table.

(b) Saudi transport charges for Medina were recovered from pilgrims for the first sailing on the usual understanding that transport facilities would be provided. After the first sailing but before the second sailing instructions were, however, received from the Saudi Arabian Government through the British Minister, Jeddah and British Ambassador, Cairo that transport facilities to Medina would not be available. The only proper course for the Government of India, therefore, was to issue the *press communiqué* and not to recover Medina transport charges from pilgrims of the second batch. At the same time, however, the Government of India made strong representations to the Saudi Government for providing transport facilities to Medina particularly for pilgrims of the first batch. It was in response to these representations that the Saudi Government arranged for transport facilities for the first batch and held out an assurance to do the same for pilgrims of the second batch. We, therefore, issued another press note accordingly a copy of which is also placed on the table.

(c) Government have no such information but consider this to be highly improbable inasmuch as 2,850 applications were received for the 2,240 seats available for the second sailing. The *press communiqué* did not affect the first sailing at all.

(d) Does not arise.

NOT TO BE BROADCAST

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Booking of passage for the second Hajj Sailing has now commenced at Karachi. Intending pilgrims should send applications with passage money of Rs. 339-10-0 to Hajj Booking Officer, Karachi upto 15th October 1944. Passage will not be guaranteed if applications are despatched after the 15th. Pilgrims who happen to despatch applications after the 15th must inquire before starting whether their passages have been booked. Those who send applications upto the 15th October 1944, should not wait for the receipt of the Reservation Cards, but must reach Karachi between the 20th and 25th October 1944, with postal acknowledgments and money order receipts and approach the Hajj Booking Officer, Karachi, for Reservation Cards. *Transport for a visit to Medina is not available in the Hejaz.* It will not therefore be possible for pilgrims to visit Medina except on foot. Saudi dues and transport charges from Jeddah to Arafat and back amounting to Rs. 323-6-0 by camel and Rs. 444-4-0 by bus will be recovered before issue of steamer tickets as already announced. Pilgrims must purchase sovereigns in their home Districts. Those who applied previously for Deck passage and have not received Reservation Cards need not wait but must reach Karachi before the 25th October, with Money Order receipts. First class passage is not available now and therefore no one should apply for it. Of the previous applicants for first class passage no one should start for Karachi unless and until he receives a Reservation Card or an intimation from the Hajj Booking Officer that a passage has been reserved for him.

Intending pilgrims from Bengal, Assam and Delhi are, however, informed that quotas of their provinces have already become full and that those who have applied after the 5th October, for passages stand no chance of getting it. They should not therefore start for Karachi.

Commonwealth Relations Department.

New Delhi, October 7, 1944.

NOT TO BE BROADCAST

PRESS NOTE

TRANSPORT TO MEDINA ARRANGED

As a result of representation made by the Commonwealth Relations Department of the Government of India, transport to Medina was arranged for the first batch of the Hajj pilgrims. Similar arrangements are expected to be made for the second batch of pilgrims. Commonwealth Relations Department.

New Delhi, November 11, 1944.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is great difficulty in getting return of the money for the tickets which were issued to pilgrims going to Haj who could not perform the journey?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: If the Honourable Member gives me a concrete case, I shall certainly have the matter remedied.

NON-PAYMENT OF COMPENSATORY DUES FOR OVERSTAY BY HAJ SHIPPING COMPANIES.

671. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that although the pilgrims had mostly to wait at Jedda for pilgrim ships for their return journeys for more than fifteen days, they were not paid their compensatory dues for overstay by the Shipping Company? If so, why were the pilgrims deprived of their dues from the company and what action do Government propose to take in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The information is being collected and will be supplied when received.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: What is the information to be collected in this matter? The question is with regard to the amount to be paid for retaining the Hedjaz pilgrims at Jedda for more than the stipulated period.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That is the information that is being collected.

PAUCITY OF SIKH OFFICERS IN FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION

672. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state if there has ever been a Sikh Officer on the staff of the Federal Public Service Commission or a Sikh Member on it?

(b) Do the Government of India propose to consider the claim of the Sikhs to be associated in such important activities of Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No.

(b) The matter is one for the Governor-General in his discretion and will be considered by him.

SCARCITY OF FOOD IN BIHAR

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

(a) if it is not a fact that Mr. Biswanath Das, the former Premier of Orissa, has stated in a press statement, dated the 29th January, that "severe distress was prevailing in Orissa which was in no way lesser than that of Bengal";

(b) the Districts in which real scarcity of food supplies prevails, and to what extent;

(c) whether there have been deaths during 1944 due to destitution or special incidence of epidemics due to malnutrition;

(d) whether the Government of Orissa has asked for any supplies of rice and wheat from other Provinces;

(e) what assistance has been rendered by the Central Government to alleviate the distress of Orissa; and

(f) the plans of both the Central and Provincial Governments to assure Orissa adequacy and regularity of food supply during 1945?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) I have seen a news paper report to that effect:

(b) The Orissa Government report that there is at present no scarcity of food in any district.

(c) There were no deaths due to destitution in 1944. There was a slight increase in deaths due to cholera, small-pox, fever, dysentery and diarrhoea in the first half of 1944, as compared with the corresponding part of 1943 and the quinquennial average for the years 1938-42. It is, however, difficult to say definitely how far this increase can be ascribed to malnutrition. There was a decrease in the number of deaths from the same causes in the latter half of 1944 compared with the latter half of 1943.

(d) and (e). The Government of Orissa have not asked for any supplies of rice, in which grain they have declared themselves to be surplus. As regards wheat, the Government of Orissa asked for 9,500 tons, which has been allotted to them in full.

(f) The Provincial Government's scheme of procurement of rice and paddy, and its distribution at controlled rates in deficit areas is sufficient to ensure adequacy and regularity of food supplies.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that a responsible officer of the Food Department of the Government of India visited this area early in December last and if so, what was his report?

Mr. E. H. Hutchings: I have given the answer as to the facts of the question as already stated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of sending an officer to go to the area and ascertain for himself whether really scarcity conditions do not prevail in the Ganjam District of Orissa.

Mr. E. H. Hutchings: I will try to pay a visit myself as early as possible.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the report of the Special Officer as well as the report of the Government of Orissa are identical in this matter?

Mr. E. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir, they are.

FOOD ADVISORY COUNCILS

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

(a) on what basis the present Food Advisory Councils are being appointed in different Provinces;

(b) whether it is proposed to drop the principle of nomination, to invite the organisations of peasants and agricultural workers and land-holders who are actually interested in cultivation, and to provide the majority of seats on such Food Councils to agriculturists and other villagers;

(c) for what terms these Councils are constituted;

(d) whether Government propose to reconstitute these Councils on more popular basis with greater representation for agriculturists and rural public;

(e) in how many Provinces such Councils now exist and function; and

(f) what their functions are?

Mr. E. H. Hutchings: (a), (e) and (f). Food Advisory Councils, or similar bodies, have been set up by ten Provincial Governments, in order to associate non-official public opinion with the work of their Food administration. The composition of these bodies varies; their function is mainly advisory.

(b) and (d). The composition of these councils is for the respective Provincial Governments to decide.

(c) The Government of India have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Government have given assurance on the floor of this House during the last debate on Food to the effect that they will recommend to the Provincial Governments to see that these Food Councils are so constituted that agricultural producers are given sufficient and satisfactory representation?

Mr. E. H. Hutchings: I do not think that we give special preference to agricultural producers but we certainly have given an assurance that it is our policy to encourage the constitution of such councils.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member suggest to the Provincial Governments that they should see that their Food Councils are made as representative as possible, particularly of peasants?

Mr. E. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir, I will make that suggestion to Provincial Governments.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether Government will also consider the question of making the Central Food Advisory Council more representative than it is today and whether they will put upon it a representative of the All-India Trade Union Congress?

Mr. E. H. Hutchings: I will give consideration to that suggestion.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

BUTLER REPORT

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

(a) if it is proposed to publish Mr. Butler's report on Government Food Procurement;

(b) if he is prepared to supply a copy of that report to members of this House; and

(c) what the conclusions drawn by Government and the recent All-India Food Conference on that report are?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). The Honourable Somerset Butler's report has been published, and copies have been placed in the Library.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the resolutions passed by the 5th All-India Food Conference, copies of which were placed on the table of the House along with the Memorandum on the Food Situation in India, at the beginning of the Session.

COMPULSORY CONSUMPTION OF WHEAT IN RATIONED TOWNS

676. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the reasons for imposing compulsory consumption of wheat in all rationed towns up to a prescribed extent even though such towns happen to be in surplus or self-sufficient districts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring only to the Madras Province. The object is to secure an equitable distribution of rice and millets, in which the province as a whole is deficit, while providing a total cereal ration which meets the minimum requirements.

FOOD PROCUREMENT STAFF

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

(a) whether it is not a fact—(i) that the Food Procurement Staff are indulging in much *sulm*, (ii) that there is much corruption in their work, (iii) that they are harassing ignorant peasants, (iv) that they are favouring factory owners, merchants as against peasants, and (v) that Mr. Butler has also complained of the mis-behaviour of these officers;

(b) what steps Government propose to take in order to inspect the activities of their Food Procurement Officers, and to see that they carry on their duties in the interests of both producers and consumers and in close consultation with the Local Food Advisory Councils; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of constituting a "Food Procurement Inspection Directorate" in addition to their proposed Directorates for storage and inspection?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). I am not responsible for the conduct of the servants of Provincial Administrations whose duty it is to procure foodgrains. I am aware that corruption exists, but I am not prepared to lend my authority to wholesale allegations of the kind set forth in the Honourable Member's question.

As to the steps which I have taken to combat bribery and corruption, the Honourable Member is invited to study the answer given to parts (a) (ii) and (iii) of Mr. Abdul Qaiyum's starred question No. 296 on the 16th of February 1945.

(c) No, Sir.

REPRESENTATION FROM GITA PRESS FOR INCREASE IN PAPER QUOTA

678. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) if he has received a representation from the Gita Press, Gorakhpur for the increase in the quota of paper consumed by them; and

(b) in view of the fact that a large number of copies of *Gita and Ramayana* have to be supplied to the military, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of granting permission to the Gita Press to consume more paper; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Asizul Huque: (a) Government have received a representation from the Gita Press, Gorakhpur, for increase in the quantity of paper they are allowed to use.

(b) The representation is being examined.

EXPENDITURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT DURING CURRENT YEAR.

679. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state:

(a) How much money is likely to be spent during the current financial year in the Archaeological Department on (i) excavations, (ii) travelling allowance of Gazetted Officers, (iii) travelling allowance of establishments, and (iv) furniture including cutlery and crockery, etc.;

(b) what novel antiquities have been unearthed at Taxila during this year; and

(c) the antiquities unearthed by Sir John Marshall?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) (i) 35,000; (ii) 38,500; (iii) 20,000 and (iv) 4,000;

(b) A full report on the recent excavations at Taxila is not yet available. It may, however, be stated that an important public building including a pillared assembly-hall situated in the centre of the oldest of the three cities, has been un-earthed and is of a kind not previously known at the period. Amongst many objects found in this was a hoard of gold and silver jewellery and coins. I would add that the primary purpose of the Taxila excavation has been to train Indian students, of whom 61 took part in the work and received instruction.

(c) Particulars of antiquities un-earthed by Sir John Marshall will be found in the published reports of the excavations.

ALLOTMENTS WITHDRAWN OR EXTRA GRANTS MADE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

680. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state if allotments of funds have been withdrawn from different circles of Archaeological Department or extra funds have been obtained from Government for expenditure on excavations introduced by the present Director General of Archaeology?

(b) How many conservation works pertaining to Muslim monuments have been postponed during the current financial year, and what is the reason for doing so?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No funds have been withdrawn from the circles for excavations. On the contrary an additional grant of Rs. 6,000 has been asked for to meet the cost of excavations.

(b) Many conservation works pertaining to monuments of all communities have been postponed during the current financial year as during previous years, for three reasons: (i) shortage of funds, (ii) shortage of trained staff, and (iii) shortage of materials and labour.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN SOUTH INDIA

681. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state how many famous sites have been discovered by the present Director General of Archaeology in the southern part of India?

(b) When is he proceeding to South India with his staff for conducting excavations?

(c) On which sites and of which period and with what point of view is he going to make excavations in South India?

(d) Has the Director General made any trial excavations at the sites in question?

(e) What amount of money is likely to be spent on these excavations?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (c). The Director General of Archaeology has decided to carry out survey and excavation in South India during the next two months. In particular, a site has been chosen on the coast south of Madras with the special purpose of obtaining information likely to form a basis for the scientific classification of early South Indian cultures. I understand that, on the site which it is proposed to excavate, there are datable remains of overseas origin which will enable the associated Indian cultures to be placed in their chronological and historical context.

(b) The Director General of Archaeology is proceeding to South India this month.

(d) A small trial excavation was made a few years ago by local people, which was sufficient to indicate the general importance of the site.

(e) The amount of money to be spent will depend upon the preliminary results of the work.

UNDER SECRETARIES AND HIGHER OFFICERS IN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

682. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state the number of officers not below the rank of Under Secretary in the Main Secretariat of the Department of Education, Health and Lands?

(b) How many of them are Muslims?

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

(b) There is no Muslim Officer in the Main Secretariat.

KNOWLEDGE OF INDIAN ANCIENT LANGUAGES, ETC., OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

683. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state if the present Director General of Archaeology knows any of the ancient languages, such as Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit and Tamil, etc., and whether he is a scholar of Indian history ancient or medieval?

(b) Has the Director General of Archaeology written any books on Indian Archaeology, art or architectures? If so, what are these books?

(c) Is it a fact that he is going to visit Persia officially? If so, what is the object of this visit?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (f) of starred question No. 159 on the 21st February, 1944.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. The Persian Government which is anxious to establish close cultural relationships with India, has invited the Director General to visit Persia at an early date to examine the possibilities of further contact between the two countries in archaeological matters.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST MANNER OF TAKING EVIDENCE BY HINDU LAW COMMITTEE

684. *Pandit Nilakantha Das: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware—

(i) that there have been complaints published in the press that Hindu Law Committee do not attach much importance about the way they take evidence (vide *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Allahabad town Edition, dated the 13th February, page 6),

(ii) that the Committee visited Delhi for some time during the first half of February to take evidence,

(iii) that the Committee visited Delhi for some time during the first half when evidence was taken in Delhi,

(iv) that witnesses had practically no notice and were actually examined quite unprepared, and

(v) that the evidence was not taken down by any stenographer and no proper record of the evidence was kept;

(b) what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to remedy the defects referred to above; and

(c) if Government propose to ask the Committee to visit again the places they have already covered to meet witnesses after giving them and the public sufficient notice and to provide for keeping proper record of evidence?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) (i) I have seen the letter in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) to (v), (b) and (c). Government have complete confidence in the capacity of the Committee to regulate its own procedure to the best advantage, and I do not propose to intervene in any way.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

685. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Das: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent annually in different Provinces on "Grow More Food" campaign since its inception and to give a detailed statement of the work done in different Provinces;

(b) if any loan has been granted to the cultivators for the purchase of plough and cattle in any of the Provinces; if so, in which Provinces; and

(c) the amount spent in different Provinces on maintaining officers for "Grow More Food" campaign?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement showing the money made available by the Central Government in each year to the different provinces for the Grow More Food Campaign is placed on the table of the House along with a further statement showing the work done in each province, during 1943-44. Information as regards 1944-45 will not be available till after the close of the year.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 19th February, 1945 to parts (b) and (c) of his starred question No. 317.

(c) A statement showing the amount sanctioned exclusively for the staff is placed on the table of the House. In addition, funds have been provided in some cases for the staff together with the scheme for which it is required. The amount cannot, however, be separated from the grant for the scheme.

Statement showing the progress of work done in different provinces up to 30th June, 1944 in connection with the 'Grow More Food' Schemes sanctioned by the Central Government during 1943-44.

Name of the Province or Local Administration	Approximate quantity in maunds distributed		Approximate addl. acreage brought under		Approximate Addl. pro-duction in tons	Remarks
	Seed	Manure	Addl. irrigation	addl. cultivation		
Ajmer-Merwara	6,669	..	..	14,369	1,392	..
Assam	2,070	514	1,57,200	14,900	5,49,400	..
Baluchistan	Not received					
Bengal	3,07,395	20,330	27,023	7,760	3,11,187	..
Bihar	70,000	55,000	..	44,600	33,000	..
Bombay	99,996	6,22,099	14,302	4,70,253	1,48,255	..
C. P. & Berar	74,859	19,208	5,200	49,956	5,862	..
Coorg	..	..	..	1,250	625	..
Madras	12,127	4,21,763	57,780	2,38,624	43,190	..
N.W. F. P.	Not received					
Orissa	54,391	1,106	7,550	10,408	56,830	..
Punjab	..	..	..	29,025	7,295	..
Sind	21,422	..	..	25,727	8,875	..
U. P.	Not received					

Statement showing the grants sanctioned for the staff required in connection with 'Grow More Food' Campaign during 1943-44 and 1944-45.

Name of the Provinces etc.	1943-44	1944-45
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Assam	..	1,01,400
2. Bengal	76,000	2,00,000
3. Bihar	58,152	1,79,800
4. C. P. & Berar	50,000	..
5. Coorg	7,200	..
6. Madras	..	1,51,694
7. N. W. F. P.	..	10,918
8. Orissa	27,500	1,43,336
9. U. P.	..	16,800
10. Baroda	46,000	16,000
TOTAL	2,64,852	8,19,948

Statement showing the loans and grants sanctioned to Provinces during 1943-44 and 1944-45

Name of the Province, etc.	1943-1943.			1944-1945		
	Loans Rs.	Grants from Cen- tral Reven- ues Rs.	Grants from Cot- ton Fund Rs.	Loan Rs.	Grant from Cen- tral re- venues Rs.	Grant from Cot- ton Fund Rs.
1. Ajmer-Merwara	..	70,000	29,185	2,34,250	70,016	21,996
2. Assam	9,01,867	4,02,585	..	10,86,100	4,88,150	..
3. Baluchistan	..	10,376	..	1,66,400	1,81,879	..
4. Bengal	62,15,000	12,84,184	..	23,15,000	12,38,617	..
5. Bihar	..	9,67,152	..	-9,64,000	13,62,870	..
6. Bombay	3,00,000	5,93,093	2,68,678	8,22,500	25,80,155	13,63,250
7. C. P. & Berar	39,50,000	11,82,500	5,38,000	31,18,970	6,09,651	50,000
8. Coorg	..	48,450	..	..	63,000	..
9. Madras	45,00,000	2,67,000	1,46,666	16,25,000	27,71,946	1,71,800
10. N. W. F. P.	..	1,07,500	..	12,74,000	10,83,666	..
11. Orissa	5,77,300	1,73,650	..	14,67,600	9,49,241	..
12. Punjab	..	3,00,000	..	..	15,08,860	..
13. Sind	..	4,85,335	..	..	88,000	..
14. U. P.	..	9,37,200	..	..	27,57,290	..
15. I. C. A. R.	..	1,31,600	..	..	3,02,826	..
16. Baroda State	..	..	4,93,500	..	..	7,19,350
17. Kishmīr State	..	16,800	..	..	..	..
18. Kutch State	..	..	8,677	..	..	..
19. Rampur State	..	..	..	..	..	8,498
TOTAL	1,64,44,167	69,77,425	14,34,607	1,30,73,820	1,59,99,469	23,34,994

COMPANIES REGISTERED FOR MANUFACTURE OF MOTOR CARS.

696. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state how many companies have been registered in India for the manufacture of motor-cars and what the paid-up capital of each of them is?

(b) What powers have Government got, either in the licence to raise capital given to these companies, or under any other powers, of supervising, checking, revising or otherwise controlling the nature of the contracts, which such firms would make with foreign companies or corporations?

(c) Do Government know or have Government seen the terms under negotiation between the companies registered for the manufacture of motor-cars and non-Indian companies abroad, for the sale of such non-Indian companies goods in India by the companies registered in India?

(d) Has the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies or the Supply Department or any other Department of the Government of India the responsibility to see that Indian interests are adequately safeguarded?

(e) If so, which is this Department, what is the means by which it is functioning, and has it examined this question? What are its findings on this subject?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Two companies. Consent was given by the Examiner of Capital Issues to the following issues of shares: Premier Automobiles Ltd., Bombay-Rs. 2,25,00,000; Hindustan Motors Ltd., Okha Rs. 4,87,50,000.

(b) No such means are expressly provided for. It will, however, be possible to consider the subject at the stage of releasing the invested capital from investment if any such measure of control is in operation at the time when such release is applied for. Control can also be exercised at the stage of allowing import licences, priorities, release of controlled materials, etc.

(c) Government have seen the Agreement entered into in 1940 by the Premier Automobiles Ltd. with the Chrysler Corporation of U.S.A.

(d) and (e). These as well as other matters of policy are under consideration in the Planning and Development Department.

IMPORTED MOTOR CARS AND TRUCKS

687. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state what the total import of (i) motor-cars, and (ii) motor trucks was in 1937-38 and 1938-39, and what was the total number registered in India of motor cars and motor trucks before the war?

(b) How many factories are there manufacturing motor tyres, what is their output and how much of their capital is held by Indians?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Total Imports:

	1937-38	1938-39
Motor cars (including taxi cabs)	15,697	10,983
Motor omnibuses vans and lorries—		
(a) with bodies	343	283
(b) chassis	14,834	7,583

Total number of cars running in British India in March, 1939.

Motor cars (including taxi cabs)	1,07,956
Heavy motor vehicles (lorries, buses, etc.)	39,922

(b) Two factories. A substantial portion of the capital of one of the factories has been subscribed for by Indians. Figures regarding the output of the two factories cannot be divulged for security reasons.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

WRITTEN ANSWER

(Postponed from February 21, 1945)

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS RICE WITH BENGAL GOVERNMENT

441. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreement has been arrived at between the Central Government and the Bengal Government about the disposal of the so-called "surplus" rice acquired by the Bengal Government;

(b) whether the present rice and paddy purchase policy of the Bengal Government has the full approval of the Government of India; and

(c) whether steps will be taken by the Government of India to ensure that in future the Bengal Government's purchases are confined to paddy for which expensive storage facilities are less essential than in the case of rice?

Mr. B. H. Hutchings: (a) The Bengal Government have no surplus rice. The best methods of keeping and bringing into consumption in Bengal large

quantities of rice and paddy purchased in 1944 have been fully discussed with the Bengal Government. Certain agreed conclusions have been reached, and action taken to implement them.

(b) The Bengal Government's arrangements for purchasing rice and paddy were decided in consultation with the Government of India, who will continue to be in the closest touch with the Provincial Government in their execution of the plan.

(c) The Government of India have suggested and the Bengal Government have agreed that a substantial proportion of future purchases should be stored as paddy.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

49. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state (a) the total number and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The information is being collected and will be furnished in due course.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS DEPARTMENT

50. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The expenditure of public time and labour involved in collecting these statistics would not be justifiable in war time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER FOOD DEPARTMENT

51. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House, when received.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

52. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) Total number in all grades:

(i) Permanent	14
(ii) Temporary	42

(b) (i) Nil. (ii) 1 (in the grade of Rs. 100—200); Jaswant Singh, Assistant.

(c) (i) Nil. (ii) 1 (in the grade of Rs. 125—300).

(d) Nil.

(e) (i) 1 (in the grade of Rs. 1,675—2,000). (ii) 2 (1 in the grade of Rs. 2,500 and 1 in the grade of Rs. 750—900).

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

53. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

54. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This Department was created in April 1943. The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in War time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER LABOUR DEPARTMENT

55. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The time and labour involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate, with the results to be achieved. The Government therefore regret their inability to furnish this information.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF IN DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

56. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The collection of the information asked for would entail expenditure of time and labour which would hardly be justifiable in war-time.

PROFITTEERING IN HOUSE PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS IN DELHI

57. Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that a good deal of profiteering is going on in house property transactions in Delhi City? If so, what action has been taken by Government to check it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government have no information. (b) The question does not arise but for the information of the Honourable Member I would state that Government have not passed any measure regulating the sale of private house property in Delhi City.

POST-WAR SCHEMES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE

58. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the post-war schemes to improve the Indian Agriculture?

(b) Is it a fact that officers of the Agriculture Departments, and students possessing Diploma in agriculture will very shortly be sent over to Europe by the Government of India for further studies and research work? If so, what number would be sent every year, for what period and for how many years?

(c) Who would pay the cost of the persons who will thus be sent to Europe?

(d) How would the selection be made from out of the applicants? Would the Provincial Governments make the selection from their Provinces or would the Central Governments have some hand in making the selection?

(e) Will the principle of communal proportion be kept in view in making the selection?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Attention is invited to the recommendations made by the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at its meeting held in June 1944 and those contained in the Memorandum on the development of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research both of which will be found in the Library of the House. The recommendations are still under consideration by the Governments concerned.

(b) (i) Yes. (ii) The matter is under consideration.

(c) In respect of students not already in Government service the Central Government will bear the entire cost of training students sponsored by itself and will share in equal proportions with the Provincial Government concerned the cost of training students sponsored by the Provincial Government. The cost of training students who are already in Government service will be met by the Government under which they are serving.

(d) Applications of those who wish to proceed overseas under the aegis of the Central Government will be considered by an *ad hoc* Selection Board to be set up by the Central Government. A similar procedure has been suggested to Provincial Governments. The applications forwarded by Provincial Governments will also be considered by the Central Selection Board so far as necessary to reduce the number to a figure approximately equivalent to the number of places likely to be available in institutions overseas and to eliminate candidates whose educational qualifications are such as to make it unlikely that they would secure admission to an institution overseas.

(e) Strict adherence to prescribed communal proportions cannot be guaranteed in respect of each subject but every effort will be made to ensure that all minority communities are adequately represented under the scheme so far as the centrally sponsored students are concerned. The desirability of ensuring that the facilities now being offered are made available to members of minority communities has also been brought to the notice of all Provincial Governments.

SENDING OUT PERSONS ABROAD FOR AGRICULTURAL STUDIES OR RESEARCH WORK

59. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazi-l-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether any recommendations from the Government of the Punjab for persons in service in the Agricultural Department or otherwise have been received for sending them abroad for studies or research work? If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of the persons recommended by the Punjab Government and their qualifications?

(b) Have Government reached a final decision about the persons to be sent abroad for studies or research? If so, how many would be sent from the Punjab and for what subjects?

(c) Do Government contemplate to send abroad some of their own people in service in the Agricultural Department of the Government of India for further studies and research work? If so, how many, for what subjects, when, and under what conditions?

(d) Who will make the selection? Would communal proportion of various communities be kept in view?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No recommendations have been received from the Punjab Government.

- (b) (i) No.
 (ii) Does not arise.
 (c) (i) Yes.
 (c) (ii) and (d). The matter is under consideration.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER IN CANADA

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether it is a fact that arrangements have been arrived at with the Government of Canada to appoint an Indian Trade Commissioner in 12 Noon. Canada? If so, when was this agreement reached, and what steps have been taken to implement this agreement?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The post of Indian Trade Commissioner in Canada, which was created with the approval of the Canadian Government has been in existence since the 7th November 1941.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

FIRST STAGE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed with the general discussion of the Budget. Under rule 46(3) of the Indian Legislative Rules, I fix fifteen minutes as the time limit for the Honourable Members generally, twenty minutes for Leaders of Parties, and one hour or more, if necessary, for the Government Member to reply.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): You have been giving 20 minutes either for the Leader or for any Member speaking on behalf of his Party.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All right.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): I shall respond to the invitation made by the Honourable the Finance Member in his closing remarks to economists and historians to evaluate his financial stewardship. My contribution, Sir, to the history of his stewardship is that Sir Jeremy Raisman will go down in our annals under the name of Printing Press Raisman who cared for the war, the whole war, and nothing but the war! I regard him, in spite of his protestations as the true representative of John Bull and Company in this country. It may be that Churchill is not liquidating the Empire, but I find that Sir Jeremy Raisman is very effectively liquidating the economic life of this country. How can we accept his protestations, how does he expect this country and its people to be so imbecile as to gulp down the various nice things he has said? Sir, this Government have got good many tame Indians on the Reserve Bank Board who will tolerate things which they should not tolerate. They have got good many tame Indians on the Treasury Benches who are putting up with matters which they should not put up with in the interests of India. May I ask why it was found impossible to elevate at least one of these tame Indians to the Finance Membership in this country? The reason is obvious: even such tame men will not accept and carry out settlements which come down from England, and therefore they cannot be appointed.

It is not possible, Sir, to stick to the normal standard of criticism which is possible with regard to five lakhs here or fifty lakhs there, when it is sought to impose Defence charges to the extent of Rs. 400 crores on the head of this country. I shall, therefore, Sir, content myself in the very short limitation of time at my disposal, with dealing with this main issue which entirely overshadows all the other details of the Budget.

Sir, I will present to the House a parallel for close consideration, and that parallel is this. Hitler conquered France, and after conquering France he set up the Vichy Government there as his collaborators, and imposed on that Government the daily expenditure of the army of occupation running into

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

many millions of francs per month. Not content with that he used the printing press in order to print French currency with which they purchased compulsorily whatever they wanted. I ask this House to take this parallel, and to see whether the Honourable the Finance Member has not done exactly the same thing in this country.

Sir, he has imposed Rs. 400 crores as against Rs. 36 crores our normal military charges. He has exceeded by ten times the figure of normal Army expenditure, he has exceeded even his own budget-figure by Rs. 118 crores, and he justifies it on the ground that there has been a settlement. I am coming to that settlement. I will not draw further parallels between the Vichy Government and this Government. I will not say that there are collaborators and Quislings. I only hope that my Indian friends on the Treasury Benches will not get up on their two legs. I hope they are defending the Indian position in the Executive Council. I hope they will not get up on their two legs here to defend Sir Jeremy Raisman's position with regard to this imposition which is absolutely parallel with what Hitler's Government did in the occupied territory.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): They have no legs to stand on.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: They are not quadrupeds.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Now, Sir, it has been suggested that this is India's liability, this is what you have agreed to, there has been a financial settlement. May I ask, Sir, who made this settlement in 1940? May I ask who made the settlement before that, and before that? Who is making these settlements? Sir, it is the Government of England which is making these settlements with itself. I do not see two Governments. I will appeal to my Honourable friend, the Law Member, who is not here, and other eminent lawyers to tell me whether a settlement is not between two persons. How can there be an agreement between one person and himself? I see in this Government Jekyll and Hyde, it may be that we have got the milder face of the same personality in this country, it may be that face is disguised by the presence of Indians on the Treasury Benches. How is this agreement made? We have got an illustration here with regard to these 15 millions capital being paid away on non-effective charges. There were negotiations I am told, these negotiations advanced, after that an arrangement is concluded, a decision is taken, and then we are presented with a financial settlement which we are expected not to break, which we should confirm, which we should not question, the sanctity of which is not open to doubt, and of course we must never doubt the motives of the Honourable Finance Member because he is only carrying out the settlement. This camouflage, this sham, we must tear up. It is not a question, Sir, of the fifteen minutes which I may get or fifteen years. This is a question of mortgaging the economic life of the country for the next generation. Sir, my friends there are laughing, it was not in their conscience to put an Indian, even a tame Indian, in charge of Finance. . .

An Honourable Member: Even Indians are laughing.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why are they laughing?

An Honourable Member: At their own bodies.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Let me deal with it. There is a new law in Egypt which prohibits multiple marriages for Egyptian Pashas. But for the English Pashas on the Treasury Benches multiple marriage is not prohibited, since they have eleven Indians now instead of one as at the time of Lord Sinha, and they go on multiplying, and along with it they are multiplying the miseries and the future deterioration of life of this country. Let the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches realise this.

When I say there is only one Government, you may tell that there are the Governments of India and England, and it is between these two Governments that negotiations take place. Sir, we had the spectacle of Sir James Grigg, a

civil servant from England coming here and taking charge of Finance, and then going back and becoming Secretary for War. When he came here he negotiated with his successor in U. K. and when he goes back, from here he negotiates with his successor and his erstwhile Secretary, Sir Jeremy Raisman, and these are solemnised in the form of negotiations: these are solemnised in the form of agreements. What happened after these agreements? We have been asking for a ceiling in order that charges borne by this country should be in keeping with the capacity, with the economic considerations, with the availability, and, with the visible misery even, of millions of people who are dying, who are in dire want, who are in distress of every description—even that has not led to any moderation on the part of the British authorities who masquerade here in the person of the Finance Member, who professes all the while that he is doing everything in the interests of India! The ceiling demand was a reasonable one; it is based on the principles which the United Kingdom itself is enjoying in connection with lease-lend administrations; what are those principles of lease-lend? That every ally must bear in accordance with his immediate position. At least some regard is given to the capacity. But may I ask if any regard of any kind is given to the capacity of India to bear these expenses which are thrown upon us? Who has made those settlements which were replaced in 1940? Have not the Government of India themselves departed, in fact, if not in form from their own settlement, and is not the initiative always with England? They can do what they like—we must not question the settlement. Have they not departed, I ask, with regard to the new nomenclature called joint measures? In other words, measures of which there is the slightest doubt as to whether they fall on England, they say under the joint measures, let India bear half. It may be said that the Indian personnel of the Executive Council are there and they are parties to the contract and they have assented, I say they are no more than the tails of the comet. They are like empty wagons, which are being drawn by the powerful white locomotive which is moving on. They are merely the ballast—the valuable cargo are the white Members. Do you not see the most important departments in their charge? The key position departments are all held by them. Why? Because it is their Government: it is His Majesty's Government—Jekyll and Hyde—it is another personality working here: it is a single Government both in England and in India; the complete direction of economic and financial policy of this country is from the United Kingdom. I maintain that this sham, this humbug of settlements, these agreements, these negotiations, these contracts, are intended merely to throw dust into our eyes and to subject our population which is momentarily helpless to a degradation which they do not deserve.

I see only one Government. I am like the Sufi Auliya, who sees only his *Mashuq*. He sees one element—he does not see two. I see only one Government and I therefore maintain that there is nothing but the mighty atom. You may try to split the mighty atom—the United Kingdom Government—you may try occasionally to split it into two personalities and present us with a face which may appear mild; you may shake hands with the gloved hand, with the mailed fist inside but there is no distinction. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I thought I was entitled to twenty minutes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is that the arrangement of the Party?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Yes. Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then it is all right.

Mr. Manu Subedar: There is a duty on Members of this House, particularly on the Indian Members of the Treasury Benches, on every Indian in the country, to resist and fight this severe imposition. I am reminded of the story of the man who sold a tyre to Mutt and Jeff. These two men were

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waiting in a motor car, and a man comes along to sell them a tyre at a very cheap price. The tyre is purchased by these two, who are pleased with the small price. They then try to put it away together in the place where their old spare tyre was, and then they find that the spare tyre has gone. The man had taken their own tyre and sold it to them! This is the position of the Finance Member which I can demonstrate, if I had more time.

Sir, I have spent the best years of my life in England. I understand Englishmen—and Englishwomen perhaps better than they do of the two expressions which I learnt to use in England to describe something which is heinous and which is very low are "to steal candy from a child" and "to cheat at cards in a club". The kind of imposition of military charges which Government have sought to make and put on this country under the pretext of settlements which are made between their own right hand and their own left, which are made behind our back, of which no opportunities are given to this House to know, of which no details are given—the military expenditure appears once a year in a few limited paragraphs of remarkable obscurity and the bulk of which is non-voted—we do not know the details on which it is spent—this imposition, I say, merits the two expressions which I have learnt in England to describe something which is never done, something which is not decent, something of which people ought to be ashamed to impose on a helpless people who are momentarily in their charge. This annual mummery, this pretence of the Finance Member getting up and showing us something which he is doing for India's benefit, in India's interests, ought to stop. This partnership is nothing more than the partnership between the admiral and the stoker who is sweating in the engine room below. This partnership is really something extraordinary and must now be completely dropped. He spoke of India's indirect interest being greater than India's direct interests. It is these indirect interests of the sterling block—sterling which has been taken away from us without our leave and on the question of the return of which the position is tomorrow, perhaps never! These measures which have been taken, the manner in which they have been executed indicates they are savouring of Nazi methods employed in the occupied countries: even Nazi dealings with the Vichy Government were better than the dealings of His Majesty's Government with the so-called Government of this country.

He tells us that India is paying a small price, a very small price for the victory which has kept back Japan from her shores. We know the price, we know the immediate price, we know the future mortgage, we know what is happening to starving and dying millions. The spokesman who talked about the small price is a representative—a Jewish representative—of the shopkeeper nation. Every man who makes a purchase in the Chandni Chowk knows that the shopkeeper says to the customer "I am ruined, but you are an old customer; I cannot help it but I will give it to you cheap". We know the shopkeeper never says that you paid too much price; we know he always says that you always pay a very small price. Even France, after paying the price I referred to, has got back her liberty. She has got back her country and she has got back her own Government: she has got back her self-respect as was shown when De Gaulle refused to be at the beck and call of the great President Roosevelt. After the war, that is the fate which France received and it paid the price. But we shall pay this price, we are going to pay this price and not receive what is our due. We are going to have the same story.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken for twenty minutes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will conclude. We are told that we have still further to be prepared: the Allies are appreciating us; we must be prepared to be

bled further in the intertsts of these appreciative Allies. I say, Sir, that this system of financial jugglery ought to be abolished.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muham-madan Rural): We are now considering the sixth War Budget and the position of India is not so bad as that of the Allied countries. I just ask my friend Mr. Manu Subedar whether it is not a fact that six years ago India was a debtor country and today it is a creditor country. This could not be changed accidentally but it has been achieved by careful manipulation and control of the finances. Now, the other thing is, is it not a fact that the Finance Member very often fought for India in all these conferences in which India was represented? He did not get all that India wanted but at the same time can anybody deny that he did put up a fight for India in all conferences. I do not agree with the Finance Member on a number of points but we must admit the real work which he has done for this country. I do not lay much stress on the personal equation of the Finance Member but I look into the work that he has done for this country. He did what he could.

Now the other thing to which I would like to draw attention is that he managed to stabilise the value of the securities. The $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. security is really the thermometer of the finance of the country and the value of this security always remained within 108 and 118 during the war. It has yielded more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. during the period of the war. I do not like some of the provincial proposals. I appreciate the distinction which he has made between the earned income and the unearned income—Vide the Explanatory Memorandum, p. 49. The advantages which he has given to earned income are not so much as we would have liked it to be. Though the income-tax on Rs. 2,000 has been diminished by one-third or reduced to two-thirds and reduction is graduated and it is equalised at the income of Rs. 60,000 per annum; at highest incomes, the income-tax has increased.

Then the other thing is about the Death duty. I don't want to discuss it here. Individually I am opposed to this death duty for several considerations which I will discuss when the question is actually before us.

Now the other thing to which I would like to draw attention is the graph which has been presented to us. I am one who lays more stress on reading the graphs than on reading words. When I was a student in Cambridge I used to read the graphs of Sir John Marshall. The graph reading is an important branch of statistics. By reading the graph you can find out what kind of fever it is. The Doctors find the nature of fever by blood examination, the Hakims by feeling pulses and statisticians by reading the graphs. Here is a graph which has been presented to us. From this we find that in 1944 general index of the prices has been stabilised at 240 which is a very high figure. Gold was stabilised at 185. This level ought to have been lowered. I have been pressing very hard all the time that the purchasing power of the rupee should be increased and the prices ought to be stabilised; and the price at which they ought to be stabilised shall be about 180.

The second thing which I like to draw attention to is the gambling in silver. We find that the value of silver has been changing from 250 to 290.

It is now high time that the Finance Member should set his foot down and stabilise the price of silver. The stock exchange, like betting in horses, is a legalised form of gambling and I think this should be stopped altogether. The Finance Member if he wishes to stabilise the finances of the country ought to set his foot down and people ought not to be allowed to gamble at least on silver which really determines the purchasing power of the rupee. I request the Finance Member that the value of silver ought to have been stabilised in the same manner as the general price index of the whole article at 180.

[Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

The next thing to which I would like to draw attention is that though the general index has been stabilised, the prices of important commodities on which living actually depends are very abnormal and very high. Take the case of rice, wheat and piecegoods. These are the three things on which the price index of living depends. If you look into the prices of these things we find that the price of wheat is still ranging from 350 to 400, price of rice from 310 to 315 and the price of piecegoods from 285 to 380. Therefore although the general index has been stabilised, the index of things like wheat, rice and piecegoods on which living depends, soars very high. This has upset the economic fabric of the country. When we have got a stabilised price index for the general articles and very high fluctuating prices of the essential foodstuffs and clothing on which living depends, then great economic unrest would naturally occur and this is the thing which the Finance Member ought to have looked into. There ought not to be an abnormal variation between the necessities of life, that is, piecegoods, wheat and rice and the general price index. Later on we will probably have a debate, possibly on a cut motion that Food Department should be abolished and I do not want to advance any arguments on that just at present. This graph that has been presented to us and similar graphs for provinces would in themselves be sufficient proof of the inefficiency of that particular Department and the conclusion would follow without the need of argument.

The next thing to which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member is there ought to be some relation between the price of cotton and the price of cotton piece-goods. Look at the graph. The price of cotton is very low, much lower than the price of cotton piece-goods. It means that the textile factories are making enormous profits at the expense of poor consumers, because cloth is essentially for the poor and the industrialists are exploiting poor people. What has the Government been doing in regulating the price level between cotton and cotton piece-goods? There should not be great variation between the price indices of the two. One is much higher than the normal price index and the other is low. The price index of wheat, rice and piece-goods should be brought to the level of general prices and unless this is done it is impossible to restore economic equilibrium in the country. The whole thing will be upset. That ought to be the primary care of the Finance Member.

The next point to which I should like to draw attention is that there ought to be some limit to the declaration of dividend. I think dividends should be regulated by law and no company should be authorised to declare dividends beyond a certain figure, say, 3 per cent. higher than the bank rate of interest. If the bank rate of interest is, say, 3 per cent., the maximum rate for dividends should be 6 or in some cases 8 and the rate should never be 40 per cent., or 50 per cent. or higher percentage as it is in some undertakings. The abnormal profits should go to the State. Profits should go to consumers and the State and not to the capitalists who should be satisfied with 6 per cent. interest.

The next point which I should like to touch upon is the question of education. I know that education is an orphan department and the Honourable the Finance Member is the godfather of that particular department. It is tagged to agriculture which is unfair. What is the total expenditure in the Budget for 1945-46? Under the Defence Department, it is 394.28 crores to which they add 17.42 crores as capital expenditure. What is the Budget for the civil side? It is 123.40 crores, abnormal increase, so that the total expenditure comes to 535.05 crores. For Education, out of this sum of 123.40 crores, we find only 19 lakhs 81 thousand. Out of the amount of 535.05 crores, education gets only 19 lakhs and 81 thousand which works out .07 pie in the rupee. In this connection, I may remind that the wealth of the country does not depend upon the amount of currency notes in circulation. They can easily be printed and

circulated, they can as easily be withdrawn. The wealth of the country does not depend upon our credit abroad, it does not depend upon our credit in England which may be fizzled away by financial jugglery or by transfer from one undertaking into another. In my opinion the wealth of a country depends entirely upon the working capacity of the people, which depends upon education. Spending as we do .07 pie in the rupee on education, how can you expect the people of this country to be wealthy? I do not care for your notes in circulation, I do not care for your low bank rate interest, I do not care for your stabilised securities; I do not care for your credit abroad, I do not care whether you are a creditor country or a debtor country, I do not care what sterling balances you have accumulated in England, I should like to know what you are doing to educate the people of this country. As I already said the Honourable the Finance Member is the godfather of this orphan department, education and so he should look into the matter. Just examine the budget of the Education Department and see how badly it is distributed. The whole budget of about 20 lakhs under the Education Department is divided into three items.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I shall conclude in one minute.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does it mean that the Honourable Member will speak for twenty minutes?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: No, Sir, he will speak only for 15 minutes.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I shall conclude now only by saying that this education budget is divided into three items, firstly scholarship to Harijans, depressed classes, 5 lakhs 30 thousand, another item of five lakhs is for polytechnic, which is of doubtful utility. It is too big for a province and it is too small as an All-India institution. It can be located in a corner of Engineering College of Benares. Only 6 lakhs odd is for grants to Universities. This is what the Government of India are spending on higher education. With this meagre amount it is very difficult for India to hold her position in the educational field. The budget is lopsided in the distribution of small amounts which are reserved for education. Provinces are spending money on education but their budgets are limited and they have no scope for expansion. With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I would like to say at the outset that in an atmosphere where criticism of the Honourable the Finance Member's Budget is likely to be severe I would not like to miss the opportunity of saying that such of us as have seen him at work are not unappreciative of the services that he has rendered to this country in his personal capacity, and this being his last Budget, I think it is only fair that we should mention it as a preface to the criticisms that we intend to level against his Budget. Sir, I find that the Honourable Member has exposed several flanks for attack. I should like to say on the credit side, though I do not know whether industry will be grateful to him for the concession he has extended to it, the decision to allow a special depreciation allowance in the case of machinery and buildings erected or installed after 1st April 1945; anyway, that is something to be said for the credit side of his Budget. I welcome certainly the differentiation between earned and unearned incomes which he has introduced in the scheme of taxation of income in the Budget. I only wish he had done that some years back when relief to the tax payer would have been certainly real. Sir, on the other side, I feel that defence expenditure, lend-lease arrangements and the position in which they are left today, the position of dollar credit available to this country, the question of sales of gold and silver, the adjustment of the payment of claims of people who suffered in Bombay explosion and the raid into war risk insurance fund and last but not the least, the manner in which sterling balance position is left over, and the rather cursory remarks that came from the Government side in regard to post-war planning—these are, what one will find at a glance, the various defects in the Honourable the Finance Member's Budget.

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari]

Sir, referring to defence expenditure, I should like to ask the Honourable Member if he would place himself in the position of a layman like myself who perusing the records that he has furnished us and perusing the figures that he has furnished us, could, in his opinion, be able to make head or tail out of the whole thing. It is said, Sir, that much of this question of allotment of expenditure is being examined by the Public Accounts Committee at some future date. But what satisfaction is it to us that the people who probably would come after us in this House will examine the position and find out whether the Government have acted properly or not. What we would like to do today is that we should be satisfied that the budget figures presented to us are legitimate and necessary and are not wholly subject to the over-riding consideration that this Government is subordinate to H. M. G. and therefore must do its bidding and that the monies will be spent in such and such a manner as to afford reasonable satisfaction that they are not mis-spent. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar referred to the lack of details in regard to defence expenditure and the Financial agreement. I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to remarks that fell from the mouth of my Honourable friend to my left last year. Sir, this booklet which is given to us regarding Defence expenditure in a dehydrated form as compared to the form in which it used to appear in the past leaves me no wiser. If the Honourable Member thinks that we are merely playing the game of the blind man's buff in considering defence expenditure and we ought merely to follow where he leads, perhaps it is right. But I do not think that that is a position with which we will be satisfied. As I have said, a *post-mortem* examination is of little account. What we would like is that some committee of this House should be associated in the matter of this defence expenditure,—the manner in which it is spent, the various items on which it is spent,—and not merely leave it to the Public Accounts Committee of the future to examine it. Besides, the figures are very imperfect. Last year in reply to a question asked on the floor of the House the Honourable the Finance Member said that the obligations incurred by this Government on behalf of the U. K. to be reimbursed subsequently was in the region of 442 crores for the year 1944-45. I should like to know how far that amount has either been exceeded or diminished. I should also like to know what is the estimate in regard to our obligations for meeting the expenditure of U. K. in this country is in the year 1945-46.

Sir, there is one other factor in this connection which I would like to mention and that is in regard to the capital expenditure on defence. This has been a regular feature of the budget for some time. I should like to ask the Finance Member if he has exercised a momentary thought on this matter and examined the position as against what he has recommended or approved of in an analogous question in the matter of the railway budget. With regard to items 1 to 5 in paragraph 18 of his speech referring to the capital portion of the defence expenditure, may I ask how far those assets will continue to possess this value at the end of this war and whether some amount of writing off in the revenue account is not necessary even in the case of capital expenditure in the defence budget? There are two items, airfields No. 1 and airfields No. 3. One is reciprocal and the other is debited to Air Force. What value will these have after the war? I think that is a matter worth investigation. I should like to know if the Honourable Member has thought about it.

In regard to increases in the defence expenditure section because of the invasion by Japan of India, criticism on which has been levelled by the public and in the press and I should like the Honourable Member to tell us if there was to be an increase because of this invasion, in the year 1943-44 as well as in 1944-45, there has been the decrease because of the disappearance of this element to be only a matter of a few crores?

Sir, I have very little time at my disposal but I should like to say this in regard to the agreement on non-effective account, we would like to be satisfied further as to how it is a net account. We would like to know what exactly

is the amount to be paid by U. K. for non-effective charges on Indian troops and what we are liable to pay on account of non-effective charges on British troops.

The next point I should like to touch upon is the lend-lease position. The information vouchsafed here—if I am able to understand the English language aright—tells us that a total of 515 crores of lend-lease goods have been received from America, which I presume includes those goods supplied on behalf of China and U.K. besides India, because, of the rider that follows that particular clause, namely, that India would have had to spend 150 crores if she had purchased those goods on her own account. If that is so I should like to know what exactly has been sent from this country in the matter of mutual aid by way of raw materials, besides the other type of mutual aid rendered. I have before me a statement which found publication in the *Hindustan Times* of the 21st February, 1945, a Washington message which says that reverse lend-lease figures do not include food-stuffs and raw materials sent to U.S.A. from India. I should like to know this figure. I am saying this advisedly because I find in a report submitted by the British Government to Parliament on page 18—the Second Report on Mutual Aid—that tea has been sent by Britain to the U.S.A. on reverse lease-lend, and the total amount was 10,206 tons, of the value of £2,075,000. Is this particular item one that went from India to the U.K. and from there was sent on to the U.S.A.? While on this question I should like to urge, particularly in view of the fact that this Government have been able to effect a direct mutual aid agreement with Canada, that the position in regard to these lease-lend arrangements are extremely unsatisfactory in the absence of a direct agreement with U.S.A.

I should like to enter a protest on this occasion in regard to the manner in which we are kept blindfolded in the matter of sales made in this country of gold and silver. The Honourable Member says that the sales of gold and silver have appreciably lightened the position so far as the inflationary effects are concerned. We have asked several questions in the past on this matter; we have protested time and again about the profits made by foreign countries by sale of gold in this country, and we have been vouchsafed no answer in regard to the extent that the foreign countries have benefited. And I would like to ask the Honourable Member if he knows—it is hearsay, it may be right or wrong—that Egypt has been able to secure a substantial portion of the profits made out of the sale of gold in that country, gold sold for the purpose of producing an anti-inflationary effect on its economy.

Sir, the next item that I should like to deal with, in the short time at my disposal, is in regard to the dollar position. The Honourable Member said last year that the Government of India have been able to persuade His Majesty's Government to give some kind of aid to India, so that its post-war position might be safeguarded. And this year he has announced the amount as being 20 million dollars which is a little over six crores of rupees. I understand that one crore credit has already been given in regard to import of machinery for an Indian State; and I do not know if this will go out of these six crores dollar credit to our account or from out of the Empire Dollar Pool. I should like to ask the Honourable Member if he knows that Egypt, a country which is very small and whose sterling balances are in the region of two hundred millions sterling, has concluded an agreement recently, an agreement which I think has found support in the City papers of London, by which she has got about 40 million dollars worth of hard currencies for the year 1945, apart from the trade that will be handled through the M.E.S.C. There has been some amount of correspondence in the papers going on between that notorious Paul Einzig and the Egyptian representative; but at the same time public opinion in England seems to favour Egypt's claims rather than that of English financiers. If Egypt can get 40 million dollars for 1945 and India gets 20 million dollars, either this Government is deplorably weak and deplorably blind to the interests of this country or they are hopelessly powerless and the reason really is political rather than one of equity.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I must point out to the Honourable Member that the two figures are not really comparable. They are totally different. The Egyptian figure is the figure of a target for current expenditure which in the case of India is not included in the 20 million at all. The Egyptian figure includes their current expenditure whereas in the case of India the 20 million dollars is over and above any current expenditure of dollars.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the figure of current expenditure?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot say at this moment.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am grateful to the Honourable Member for pointing this out but I am coming to this question. I was going to ask the question as to what the Honourable Member meant by saying that the 15 million dollars set apart for India was in addition to the current requirements to be met out of the Empire Dollar Pool.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I would also like to ask him, what about India's position in regard to the Empire Dollar Pool? A question was asked the other day if the dollar position in the Empire Dollar Pool now was extremely satisfactory, which he denied the other day. But I have figures with me to show that U. K.'s exchange resource of dollars about the end of last year was somewhere in the region of three thousand million dollars; and what portion of it will India get for what is called current requirements considering the fact that U. K. has been able to make very definite and positive arrangements in regard to credit to be available for her, both by way of lease-lend and by way of private arrangements for her post-war developments.

Sir, I should like to conclude with a reference to post-war planning. The Honourable Member has said something about post-war planning in his speech, and has merely told us that that was a matter for the future, and so far as the immediate position was concerned, the Hydari Mission appears to cover practically all that we want. I should like to know if the Honourable Member knows that so far as the U. K. and U. S. A. are concerned, they have already switched over to peace production, and there have been mutual arrangements between them by which some definite but the same percentage of war production in the case of both the countries has been switched over to peace production; and I want to know what we are doing in a similar direction in this country. Sir, I have done.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, during the few minutes which are at my disposal I shall deal with only two or three problems regarding the policy of the Government of India underlying this Budget. Sir, if I have to characterise this Budget in one or two words, I would say that the Government of India's policy, as indicated by this Budget, is a timid policy: They do not show that they have any realization of the great problems which they will have to deal with immediately after the war. It seems to me, judged by this Budget, that the Government of India is a tired out body. I do not suggest that the Honourable the Finance Member, who very soon after putting in hard work for over thirty years is going to retire, does not deserve his well-earned rest. He certainly deserves that rest, but the Government of India is a continuous body and it has no right to show signs of exhaustion and fatigue.

When I look into the Budget, I find that the Government of India has been showing deficit for the last three years of more than 150 crores, more but not less. I also find that the Government of India is leaving a good part of this deficit uncovered by taxation. If you look into their proposals for taxation this year, you will find that the Government of India seems to be reconciled to the fact that such a large deficit must be left uncovered. I know that the Honourable the Finance Member has stated in his Budget speech that he considers that the financial position of India which is at war, as compared to other countries at war, is very sound. But, Sir, I do not agree with that statement.

It may be that Great Britain and some other countries may be leaving their deficit uncovered, but Great Britain especially has not allowed the war to disturb very much the financial and the economic condition of the people. The Honourable the Finance Member knows that he has practically completely upset the economic condition of the people of this country and therefore year after year by these large deficits in the budget he is adding to the difficulties of the people and not helping them. I therefore feel that the Government of India should have made great effort to meet the deficit by additional proper taxation.

The Government of India have imposed a small additional income-tax. At the same time they have taken care to give relief almost to the equivalent extent. I do not approve of this policy. The Government of India could have, if they had desired, added to the income-tax of this country. It has not yet reached the extent to which income-tax in other countries has reached. It would have provided Government with financial resources which would have reduced their deficit.

Then, Sir, when the Honourable the Finance Member levies taxation, he levies indirect taxation on tobacco. I have no doubt that some part of the duty will be paid by the well-to-do sections of the community, but I have also no doubt that a good deal of additional taxation will fall upon the poorest classes of people in this country. I therefore feel that the Honourable the Finance Member and the Government of India are not doing justice to the people of this country in the matter of taxation. Where taxation should have been imposed in order to strengthen the financial resources of the Government of India to deal with the great problems which they have to face, they show lack of courage, and timidity, and where they should not add to the taxation, they do it showing want of sympathy for the poorer classes of the people. Not only that, the Honourable the Finance Member gratuitously almost promises the people—the capitalists in this country—that the Excess Profits Tax will be repealed as soon as the war is over. He does not realize that a promise made by one of his predecessors had to be implemented when Government could not really reduce taxation and he should not have made this promise in a hasty manner.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What promise has he made?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He has indicated that the Excess Profits Tax will be repealed as soon as the war is over.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: It will be repealed only when it is out-of-pocket for the Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I feel, Sir, that this is a policy of timidity. This policy does not show that the Government of India is actively alive to the great problems which they will have to face soon after the war. They talk of reconstruction and planning. How is the money to come for all these plans of reconstruction if the Government of India do not begin from now to build up their financial resources?

The Honourable the Finance Member has pointed out in his speech in what ways the Government in future can meet their financial needs, what should be the taxes levied on the people in this country and how Government should collect money for the purpose of reconstruction and planning. If the Honourable the Finance Member had been a professor of Economics I could understand his merely stating the kinds of taxes which are available to a Government;—we could have even known the names of these taxes from text books on Economics. But if the Honourable the Finance Member had known that some of these additional resources were available to the Government of India, he should have made a beginning in strengthening the financial resources of this country. He states in his speech that a Government, like the Government of India, may even own and control industries for the sake of additional revenue. I feel that the Honourable the Finance Member should make a beginning now instead

[Mr. N. M. Joshi]

of telling us that such a method of collecting taxation is available to the Government of India.

Sir, I have no time to deal with all the industries which the Government of India could have acquired and conducted, but I shall mention only one and that is the coal mines. The whole country today is suffering on account of the great muddle which the Government of India and the capitalists concerned with coal mining have created. The President of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry called it a 'muddle' and if the capitalists engaged in this industry have made the business of coal a muddle, why does not the Government of India take up the whole industry in its hands? Sir, it is not the capitalists in this country who have suffered on account of the shortage of coal. Many industries, like the textile industry and other industries producing consumers' goods—for which we have sent a Mission to England to get consumers' goods from England, and we do not allow the production of consumers' goods in India for want of coal—have suffered a great deal. Sir, I feel that if the Government were really anxious to get more coal, they should have taken the whole of the coal mining industry under their control. I am quite sure that the difficulty alleged to be felt about the shortage of labour is not a real difficulty. If labour is paid well as they are paid well in Great Britain, there will be enough labour in this country for producing the necessary coal. If this country could give to the Government of India 2,500,000 recruits for the war, I have no doubt that if the coal miners were paid as well as those recruits are paid for the army, the 100,000 or 200,000 coal miners you need would have been there immediately without the least difficulty. I would have thought that the Government had cared for consumers' goods and for the interests of the workers engaged in the industry in this country. I am not referring to the coal miners because I know that it is not only the coal miners who are badly treated, but there are thousands of workers in other industries who are suffering unemployment on account of shortage of coal and who become unemployed for long periods during a year. I therefore feel that the Government of India have failed in their duty in not taking over this industry into their own hands. I have no doubt, considering the present prices of coal which are three times as much as they were before, the Government of India would not only have served the industrial development of this country and stopped the unemployment of the workers, but they would have secured additional revenue which they cannot treat with contempt. Therefore, the Government of India have shown lack of courage in dealing with this problem.

Then the Honourable the Finance Member fails to develop the financial resources of his Government, but in order to have some more money he follows the policy—and a very shortsighted policy, of saving money by starving the subordinate employees of the Government of India and the inferior employees. Sir, in the year 1930 when there was some depression, the Government of India reduced the scales of pay of the subordinate employees in this country, leaving the pay of the Indian Civil Service and the higher services at their old levels, and when the war came and the prices began to rise, and the cost of living had gone up the Government of India did not revise the scales of pay, which they should have done in my judgment. The result is that the Government of India's whole subordinate service has become inefficient. I know and every Member in this Legislature who has to deal with the Departments knows, low inefficient the departments have become. The salaries paid to their subordinates are not fair.

Then, Sir, when the prices began to rise not only did the Government of India not revise the scales of pay of other departments but they did not do that even in the case of the Postal and Telegraphs Department. They consider that department as a commercial department. That department is making a profit of Rs. 10 crores and still the Honourable the Finance Member and the Government of India did not revise the scales of pay.

Then, Sir, the Government of India followed also a wrong policy as regards dearness allowance. If they did not revise the scales of pay, at least they should have given complete compensation for the dearness on account of the

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Member has one minute more to conclude his speech.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: My chief point is that the Government of India's policy underlying the budget is wrong. They did not develop their financial resources and they tried to get money by these cheese-paring methods. I hope the Government of India will give up this policy. If they want to develop this country in the immediate post-war period, they will require not only financial resources but also men to carry on the great post-war reconstruction work.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If they want to prepare the country for post-war reconstruction they should develop their financial resources so that they can have enough money and men to carry out the great project of reconstruction.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): I am glad that after all the Honourable the Finance Member has been able to tell us that he is not going to put any more taxes on the poor people. The staggering debt under which they have been burdened in the last five years of the war is well known. We are still left in doubt as to how long we are to continue paying for defence services. The second thing is how long are we to send out supplies and become a creditor nation. Those are the two very important points on which hangs the welfare of the whole country and my friend the Honourable the Finance Member has not given us any idea in that respect. The surplus sterling balances that we have are increasing every day to the tune of Rs. 1 crore: so if it went on for a year more, Rs. 300 crores must be taken for granted.

Then comes the question of war on our borders. We do not know whether we are going to get anything whatsoever out of this war on our borders and for that war we have to maintain a huge army and we do not know for how long.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Which border?

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Burma border. No doubt Great Britain has been incurring a heavy cost. The Americans are doing the same. On the other hand we find that in the midst of the war they take good care to start a corporation like the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation. They start negotiating with different nations for exports, and furthermore they have guaranteed to the industries a compensation and help in every respect to make good the losses.

Now, Sir, what has the Honourable the Finance Member done so far as this country is concerned? Debts we are incurring: war supplies we are giving. But what about getting back something? Nothing of the sort. The supplies that we made for war requirements all over the world, including the Eastern Group, were purchased in a very competitive market and the Honourable the Finance Member will be the last to deny that he did not keep a financial check on them nor on the costing of them and therefore all the charges that were levelled against Indian industries that they were making enormous profits in the supplies sent abroad, are certainly not correct. On the other hand, the things that we are getting on lease—lend from America and from England have been indented for the administration of the Assam Bengal Railway. I ask the Honourable the Finance Member what check he has got over them? The Honourable the War Transport Member told us that he was purchasing locomotives and other things at 60 per cent. and more than the usual cost. Who indented them he never told us. A large number of locomotives and wagons were indented by the American Administration of the Assam Bengal Railway from their own country at their own price and on their own terms. This is how this country has been buying. On the other hand, what is our condition at present? Things have gone on without any check that there is not only food shortage, but clothing shortage and shortage of other things as well.

[Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee]

I have only to ask one more question and I am very glad the Honourable the Supply Member has come. During this war, for making the supplies required all over the world to carry on the war we have created certain industries. I beseech the Government in the interests of the country to give us an assurance, an honest assurance with their hands on their hearts, that these industries will be maintained and developed and that without no good reason whatsoever will they allow the industries that we have created at so much sacrifice to help the war,—will they allow them to die but maintain them? I am sure that our condition hereafter is going to be still worse, because of the fact (it has always been the fact all over the world) that the European nations, though they go to war as they say in the name of humanity and for supporting the smaller nations, at the same time, as I have pointed out, during the war itself organisations like the U.K.C.C. and others to facilitate export business are being created. The British Empire is not to be liquidated. More mandatory parts of the world are to be added. These are all resources that they make up. The Honourable the Finance Member says, "After all I have taxed you all throughout your life and I will tax you also after you are dead" and that will be the income from which he will ask us to pay all our debts. Why does not the Honourable the Finance Member stand on his legs and say, as Britain will have more mandated territories and the America will have more trade treaties, so will India have at least some markets for her, as she has also made sacrifices. East Africa which we developed wants us Indians to go out. The South Africans who were for long at our mercy (it was Indian troops which saved the whole of Africa) does not want us. What has my Honourable friend the Member for Commonwealth Relations got to say?

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

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

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: I was pointing out that during this great war all the nations who are fighting in the name of humanity, for helping the small nations, and for the liberties of peoples, while making great sacrifices, are also not forgetting to make such arrangements and such engagements as will enable them not only to get back all their exports, imports and otherwise, but also to get something more, and rightly too, in order to make up for all the sacrifices they have made. When an endeavour is made for an honest purpose, and a reward for that is honestly sought, there is probably justification for it. Now, Sir, what is our position? During the last war we made sacrifices, and Indian troops and Indian civilians helped to wrest Tanganyika from German East Africa. But what was the result? The result was that province was handed over as a mandatory province to the British Empire. What do we find? Britishers and all Europeans including until this great war Germans are all treated equally. During this war, we have made very much greater sacrifices throughout Africa and in Europe and other places, and yet what do we find? We find that attempts are being made during this war for arrangements that will give Europeans better income and to oust Indians therefrom. May I ask the Honourable the Finance Member whether the condition of any country is so miserable? Further more, what do we find? We find that Indians have been barred from entry into East Africa which they built up for centuries, they were there even before the Britishers went there. Ordinances have been passed under various pretexts which have been proved to be entirely false. These are the conditions which we are facing, and therefore I do insist that the Honourable the Finance Member will tell us . . .

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: The last thing I will say is that we are fighting for reconquering Burma. A large number of our soldiers are fighting there. I hope and trust that our rights there will be maintained, and that the Treasury

Benches will give us an assurance that for all our sacrifices we shall get back our rights, legitimate rights, and that all the sacrifices we have made, the country has made, for the liberties of all peoples and for regaining that part of the Empire, will not be in vain; and that all the taxes he has collected, and all the debts we are incurring will be taken into consideration, and that further liabilities will be so adjusted as not to overburden this country. It is very very essential . . .

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Mr. Hoosseinbhoj A. Lalljee: The Honourable the Finance Member who has served this country for thirty years very well, will bear in mind that we only want bare and equal justice.

Mr. K. S. Gupta (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadar Rural):

Sir, I went through the speech of the Finance Member from the beginning to the end. I found three things—complacency at the beginning, confusion in the middle, and hope in the last. Am I to congratulate him on the eve of his departure? I believe he does not deserve any congratulation. For his complacency is misplaced. He says that 42 millions of my countrymen are being fed. 42 millions means one-tenth of the population. I do not know whether he knows that the food one gets has no nutritional value. According to reports from district authorities, provincial authorities and central authorities the Food Administration has been a failure. I will quote a passage from Mr. Butler's report (page 15):

"Bribery and corruption: Then Food Control and Administration is one which unfortunately has to be mentioned."

He cannot get out of it. Wherever he goes he sees bribery and corruption, no food is given to the people, but there is extortion from the people who are already hungry. There is something more which he says, which is more serious perhaps than bribery and corruption. What is it? It is petty harassment by minor officials, even for a permit there is a demand. Perhaps Mr. Butler has seen these with his own eyes or has recorded evidence of them, evidence of mismanagement and maladministration. I will tell you how the food problem is tackled in England. I have got a pamphlet in my hands, a very beautiful pamphlet, very excellently printed on fine paper. Here is what it says in the Foreward:

"The health of the nation has not only been maintained during the war, but in many instances actually improved in spite of the severe rationing. This itself is a major achievement."

There in England it is a major achievement, but here in India the problem has been a vexed question. If rationing is child's play in England, it is a devil's play in India. They started rationing two years ago, and what is the result? Only one-tenth of the population has been rationed. If you are going to ration the whole country, it will take you twenty years. Is that a matter for congratulation for you or for the party to which you belong? No. You do not deserve it.

Coming nearer to my constituency, I shall here quote a passage from the newspaper *Hindu* of the 27th February. Here it is stated:

"The famine conditions which followed caused further loss of vitality; the area affected most was the coastal stretch between Chicacole and the Chilka Lake and the sufferers today number at least 2,00,000 spread over 400 villages."

This is not denied. I had several interviews with the District Magistrate of Vizagapatam and also correspondence. I sent a female doctor to go about and collect facts and figures about the health conditions in North Vizagapatam from this particular area from Chicacole to Chilka Lake. Here is the letter from the District Magistrate wherein he admits what we said. I will read two or three sentences.

"Our main difficulty at the moment is shortage of medical staff."

What have they been doing all these days? If people who are suffering from diseases are not treated by doctors, where can they get the medicine?

[Mr. K. S. Gupta]

Medicine is not available; doctors are not available. What is this Government for? The sooner it liquidates itself the better. They have come to a final conclusion and have now agreed to use L.M.P.'s, one of whom at least will be attached to each of three hospitals. About malaria he says it is not in epidemic form. I say it is chronic malaria and that is not a matter for congratulation either. I am not well and I will sit down.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Mr. Azhar Ali.

(At this stage, Mr. K. S. Gupta was seen collapsing in his seat.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Assembly will adjourn for fifteen minutes.

(After a short while, Dr. G. V. Deshmukh informed the Chair that Mr. Gupta had expired.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): In view of what has happened, the Assembly will adjourn till tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 6th March, 1945.