

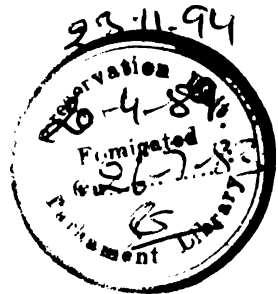
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume II, 1946

(12th February to 27th February, 1946)

FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1946



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Deputy President :

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SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

SHRI SRI PRAKASA, M.L.A.

MR. T. CHAPMAN-MORTIMER, M.L.A.

SARDAR MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, the 18th February, 1946.

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

MEMBERS SWORN:

Khan Bahadur Zafar Hussain Khan, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

Mr. Lalgudy Swaminath Vaidyanathan, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

Miss Maniben Kara, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

285. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (on behalf of Prof. N. G. Ranga): Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the latest policy of Government in regard to the release of political prisoners;

(b) the latest available figures for the number of political prisoners—(i) imprisoned in connection with the 1942 August Movement; and (ii) imprisoned for their political acts committed previous to 1942 August Movement; and

(c) how many of them are in the 'C' class?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement which I made in this House on the 11th February, in the debate on Pt. Govind Malaviya's Resolution on the subject.

(b) (i)

Governors' Provinces.

Convicts	2,850
Detenus	333

Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces

Convicts	NW
Detenus	2

(ii) So far as the Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces are concerned, there are no such persons. I have no information about Governors' Provinces.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: In view of the present situation requiring an amicable settlement, may I ask whether the Government of India would not be well advised to take an initiative in this matter and advise the Provincial Governments to release all political prisoners?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: It is covered by what I said on February the 11th.

Seth Govind Das: Since 11th February one week has elapsed and things are moving so fast in this world, will the Honourable Member not reconsider the position which he took on the 11th of February?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not think so.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Is he not on speaking terms with the Provincial Governments?

Mr. President: Order, order.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what the answer to part (ii) of clause (b) is—the latest available figures for the number of political prisoners imprisoned for their political acts committed previous to 1942 August Movement?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: So far as the Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces are concerned, there is no such prisoner.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Member if this question is not general and refers to the whole of India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I added "I have no information about the Governors' Provinces".

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what steps have been taken by the Honourable Member to ascertain the number of detenus from the various provinces? Ten days' notice is given to the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I took no steps. I happened to have the information which was asked for in b (i) and I therefore gave it. But the information required in b (ii) was not available, and I did not consider that it was the responsibility of the Central Government to get that information.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Do Government propose to remove the ban on the Forward Bloc?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I suggest that does not arise from this question.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the report published in this morning's paper, that a fresh notice has been served on Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar extending his imprisonment, is true?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I believe it is not correct.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what is the policy today of the Government with regard to the release of Sardar Sardul Singh?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The policy is as indicated by me on February the 11th. It is under consideration with the Provincial Government.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that there are prisoners convicted before 1942 and have been in jail for twenty to thirty years now in some of the provinces—in the Punjab, in the United Provinces, and some other provinces?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir. I have no information on that.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: He has no information that there are number of similar people in Nagpur. I would like your ruling on this point. The Honourable Member just said that he had no information in his hands; evidently he is referring to the Secretariat. But may I point out, Sir, that ten days' notice is given to enable him to collect information from Cape Comorin to Himaayas. Is it not his business to collect the information and place it before this House? When information of general character is asked for and the Central Government is responsible for the peace and tranquillity of the whole of India, it is their duty to furnish the information. As Members on the other side may evade giving such information, I would like to have your ruling on this point, Sir, that they must gather information from the Provinces concerned.

Mr. President: Is it really a matter for ruling? Government in their own interest ought to collect information.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I only wish they knew it!

Mr. President: Next question.

FRONTIER GOVERNMENT'S POLICY RE POLITICAL PRISONERS

286. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal** (on behalf of **Prof. N. G. Ranga**): Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the press communique issued by the Frontier Government regarding their policy towards political prisoners;

(b) if Government are prepared to advise the other Provincial Governments to create in the same way a special class for political prisoners and to offer at least the same facilities;

(c) whether Government will consider the advisability of adopting the same policy in regard to the political prisoners who are being kept in jails on the orders of administrations in the centrally administered areas; if not, why not; and

(d) whether Government will call a conference of Provincial Governments to consider this matter of treatment of political prisoners and help them to adopt a liberal policy towards political prisoners?.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I understand that no communique has been issued but that Rules for the classification and treatment of convicted and undertrial political prisoners were published in a notification of the North West Frontier Province Government dated the 17th November 1945, that Government also have under consideration the question of bringing the rules for security prisoners into line with these rules.

(b) and (d). No.

(c) So far as security prisoners are concerned, the differences between the existing rules of the Central Government and those of the North West Frontier Province notified on the 17th November 1945 are insignificant. I am examining the existing rules for the treatment of convicted prisoners with a view to deciding whether any modification along the lines of the North West Frontier Province rules is called for.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Member if in the various conferences with Home Members of several provinces a uniform procedure with regard to this question has not been evolved?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not know when the last conference with Home Members of the Provinces was held. I can remember one somewhere about 1938, but I am not aware of one since then.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In respect of the treatment of political prisoners, apart from the policy of releasing political prisoners, the Honourable Member said in reply to part (c) of Question No. 285 that it does not arise. Does that mean that there are no classes of political prisoners?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am not quite sure what my Honourable friend means. Does he mean classes of political prisoners in the provinces?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes, and under the Government of India in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: In the Chief Commissioners' Provinces there is no classification of political prisoners as such. The rules which have been issued by the North West Frontier Government, do recognise a class of political prisoners as such.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Government taken steps to advise the other provinces to have only one class of political prisoners and not to divide them as in Madras?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir. That is a matter for the Provincial Governments.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Choudhuri: Is it a fact that the rules framed by the Provincial Governments were superseded by the orders subsequently passed by the Government of India by which the Governors were authorised to frame rules in this behalf in their own provinces?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am not sure if I understand the question. If the intention of the questioner is to ask whether directions were given by the Central Government as regards the classification of political prisoners, the answer is 'No'.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there no classification regarding ordinary prisoners in the Chief Commissioners' provinces or is there only one classification for all prisoners?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: There are various classes and have been for many years.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then may I take it that even political prisoners are sent to any one of these classes indifferently?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Generally, yes Sir. They are treated under the rules which apply to ordinary prisoners.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: And therefore, it is not as if I understand the Honourable Member to say that political prisoners stand by a class of their own and there is no difference between one political prisoner and another?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That is not so in the Chief Commissioners' provinces.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many political prisoners are there in the lowest class? And is it a fact that their rate of allowance is not even three annas a day?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not think there are any political prisoners detained in the Chief Commissioners' provinces at present.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then with respect to the political prisoners in the other Provinces, may I ask the Honourable Member to collect statistics of the 5,000 who are rotting in jail? Is it not a fact that in Madras the allowance is not more than three annas a day?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That is a matter for the Provincial Governments. I cannot undertake to collect information on that.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri: Is it not a fact that under the present rules ordinary prisoners are better treated being put in a better classification than political prisoners.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot answer for the Governors' Provinces, but I think the answer is 'No'.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I apologise to the Chair for having come late. I wish to ask the Government the reasons for which they do not wish to adopt the policy that has been adopted by the Frontier Government.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: If my Honourable friend had been here, he would have known that I have not taken that attitude.

POSITION RE HEALTH OF MESSRS. JAI PRAKASH NARAIN AND RAM MONOHAR-LOHIA

287. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state the latest position in regard to the health of and the conveniences provided for Messrs. Jai Prakash Narain and Ram Manohar Lohia?

(b) In what jail are they kept?

(c) Are they allowed to be together?

(d) Are they allowed to obtain political books and also to obtain and freely utilize writing materials?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: They are both in good health. The conveniences provided for them are as stated in my answer to Question No. 53, on February 7th. They are in Agra Central Jail, and are allowed to be together. They are allowed writing materials; also political books, subject to the discretion of the Superintendent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any special provision made to enable them to purchase books?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir.

Seth Govind Das: Is there any possibility of their release now?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have nothing to add on that to what I have already said in the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government finished all the consideration about their release?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Still considering it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long will Government go on considering?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot fix an exact time.

Seth Govind Das: Approximately?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Not even approximately.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is Government awaiting the advent of the next Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir.

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

NUMBER OF PRISONERS CONVICTED IN 1942 AUGUST MOVEMENT KEPT IN ALIPURAM JAIL

288. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many political prisoners, who were convicted in connection with the 1942 August Movement are still kept in the Alipuram jail (Bellary) of Madras Presidency;

(b) how many of them have served (i) more than two years, (ii) more than three years, (iii) more than half their sentences; and

(c) whether in view of the cessation of war and the end of war emergency, Government will be pleased to remit the remaining portion of their sentences and release them or to place their cases before any quasi-judicial reviewing authority?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have no information. The matter concerns the Government of Madras.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: This is most extraordinary. We only ask for information. Here is a question asking about the number of political prisoners in the Alipuram jail of the Madras Presidency. Surely it cannot be pleaded by my Honourable friend that he is not able to obtain information though he has asked the Madras Government, or the Madras Government is not obliged to supply the information if asked. It is more than a month since I gave notice of this question. It ought to have been possible.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may be asked whether he is prepared to ask for the information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is what I am suggesting. It is the duty of the Government to do so and not to plead that they have not had enough time to ask for that information. I am stating it is more than one month that I gave notice of the question. It speaks of the irresponsibility of the.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is arguing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why has Government not taken the trouble to ask for this information?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: If my Honourable friend had been here just now he would have known that the same point arose on another question. I suggest that in regard to this my friend might get the information from the Madras Government. If he has any difficulty in doing so and will approach me I should be glad to help.

Seth Govind Das: The Provinces are being governed under Rule 98. Under these special circumstances is it not the duty of the Central Government to collect all this information and supply them when such questions are asked?

Mr. President: It will be difficult to answer the question generally. It will depend on the nature of the question asked. But obviously, in a matter of all India importance, the question will be justified. But it is a question for Government to decide as to how they will answer.

Seth Govind Das: The question of political prisoners detained without trial and for unlimited periods, is I think a most important thing, and it is an all India question even if one prisoner is concerned.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may now be further questioned.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to part (c), is it the policy of the Government that they are not interested at all or not concerned when the remaining portion of their sentences is remitted?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The question is whether Government will be pleased to remit the remaining portion of their sentences and release them. The Government of India have no power to do anything of the sort in regard to prisoners of the Provincial Governments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the policy of the Government of India in regard to such remissions?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The question does not arise as regards prisoners who are under the control of the Provincial Governments.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that the cases at least of some of the political prisoners in Provinces are reviewed by the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That is quite incorrect.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it true that not a single case from Madras had been reviewed by the Central Government before orders of release were communicated?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Not a fact.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to my own release, the Government of India had sent their advices to the Madras Government.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I can be quite positive that the Government of India passed no orders.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There was a second part to my question: "Or have they sent advice to the Madras Government".

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I must ask for notice. Certainly not in my time.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri: Has the question of release of political prisoners been left entirely to the discretion of the Provincial Governments in those provinces where Section 93 is not in force now, e.g., Assam?

Mr. President: The question is "in force".

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: May I ask it to be repeated?

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member repeat?

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri: Has the question of release of political prisoners been left entirely to the discretion of the Provincial Government in those provinces where section 93 administration is not in force now, e.g., Assam?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes.

POLICY RE PRINTING OF NOTES AND ACCUMULATION OF STERLING BALANCES

289. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether any correspondence has taken place between the Government and the Reserve Bank of India with regard to (i) the policy of printing and issue of more notes, and (ii) the policy of accumulating more sterling balances?

(b) Has the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India at any time raised any questions with regard to the measures taken by them, and is it a fact that Government have overruled in this respect?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable member to the reply to parts (b) and (c) of his starred question No. 78, on 7th February, 1946.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Did the Honourable Member say 1945 or 1946?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: 1946.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (a) and (b) and the policy of accumulating more sterling balances, have Government themselves issued a press note to the public and when was the last press note on this subject explaining the Government's policy?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That does not arise out of the question, which relates to communications between the Reserve Bank and the Government of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Government's contention is that these communications are privileged documents. I am asking whether there has been any correspondence on this subject. I am not asking for what the correspondence was.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Correspondence has taken place on all sorts of subjects between the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India, including this subject.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (b) of the question, may I know whether it is not true that the Directors of the Reserve Bank protested against the continuance of the use of Section 41 for issuing more notes and for financing the purchases of His Majesty's Government by the tender of sterling?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have already indicated that I cannot disclose the nature of any communication that passed between the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member make the policy of the Government clear on this subject without any regard to the Reserve Bank?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: To my mind there will be plenty of opportunity in the near future for discussion and elucidation of the whole question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the Honourable Member ever proposed to discontinue the printing of these notes more and more at any time?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not print the notes, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I meant to ask whether the Honourable Member advised the Reserve Bank of India not to print any more notes and considered also the bringing about of a modification of the Reserve Bank of India Act?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think there is a question on the printing of notes later on today.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to the other question, *viz.*, the necessary amendment of the Reserve Bank Act in order to withdraw the obligation that is cast on the Reserve Bank to issue notes against every pound sterling that accumulates to the credit of India, will Government consider the advisability of introducing at the earliest opportunity the necessary legislation?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The Reserve Bank does not issue notes merely because it gets sterling but because of the demand for notes from the public.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member is only evading my question. I want him to give us a categorical assurance on the question whether Government will be introducing at the earliest opportunity the necessary legislation to amend the Reserve Bank Act in regard to this particular matter that

we have in mind, that is for every pound sterling that accumulates to the credit of India the Reserve Bank's present obligation to issue rupee notes equivalent to it shall be withdrawn.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: As I have once already said, the question relates to the nature of the communication that passed between the Government and the Reserve Bank. My Honourable friend has branched off into a much wider field and I am perfectly prepared to discuss it on a suitable occasion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My Honourable friend has entirely misunderstood Prof. Ranga's question. His question was how long is this state of affairs to go on. Will this obligation, on the part of this country or the Reserve Bank cease, of issuing notes against sterling that is presented under Section 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is not covered by this question. I am prepared to discuss it on a suitable occasion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: All these questions are due to the anxiety which this country feels with regard to the continued purchases in this country through the tender of sterling and the obligation of the Reserve Bank to give rupees: and I say that Government are continuing this policy. Are they not continuing this policy against the advice of the Reserve Bank themselves and may I know when they will disclose it?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have already said that I am not prepared to disclose the nature of communications that have passed between the Reserve Bank and the Government of India.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Arising out of his answer, is it in response to the demand on the part of the public that the Reserve Bank is issuing the notes? Is it in the interest of the public to add to the currency circulation of the country, which is already inflated?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is a matter of opinion which will be discussed on a suitable occasion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it the opinion of the Government of India that there is no inflation in this country and that we can go on adding to the currency?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not pretend that there has been no inflation in the currency. If the Honourable Member had watched the weekly statements of the last few weeks he would have found that the inflation is being arrested.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When on an average of ten crores or more notes were issued.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Is it not a fact that the total under issue has not been added to in the last three weeks?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not due partly to the demonetisation of the thousand rupee notes?

PROFITS TO GOVERNMENT FROM THE SALE OF SILVER IN INDIA

290. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total amount of silver sold by the Reserve Bank of India during the years 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1945-46 (upto 31st December 1945)?

(b) On whose behalf was this sold?

(c) What steps did Government take in order to get a share of the profits for India from the sale of silver in India?

(d) What steps did Government take in order to impose income-tax on profits made in India from the sale of silver?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) In million fine ounces 3 in 1939-40, 18 in 1940-41, 94 in 1941-42, 16 in 1942-43, none in 1943-44, 36.5 in 1944-45, 13.3 in 1945-46.

(b) The Government of India.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government state the circumstances under which it was necessary to sell this silver and why the sale of it was discontinued?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The reason why it was issued was to steady the bullion market. It was discontinued, because of shortage of supply.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that silver has now reached an unprecedented price of Rs. 145 or 146 per hundred tolas, will Government consider some means of steadying the price of silver? Are they negotiating for further silver to come here in order to steady the price or are they thinking of any other means?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir. That matter is under examination at the present moment.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Did the Government fix the price of silver or leave silver to find its own level?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am not quite sure what the policy was before the sales were stopped. At the moment, of course, we do not control the price of silver.

PROFITS TO GOVERNMENT FROM THE SALE OF GOLD IN INDIA

291. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total amount of gold sold by the Reserve Bank during the years 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1945-46 (upto 31st December 1945)?

(b) On whose behalf was this sold?

(c) What steps did Government take in order to get a share of the profits for India from the sale of gold in India?

(d) What steps did Government take in order to impose income-tax on the profits made in India from the sale of gold?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Nil in 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43;

About 3.4 million ounces in 1943-44;

About 3.2 million ounces in 1944-45;

About .9 million ounces in 1945-46.

(b) The Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America.

(c) Since the sales were made to meet the war expenditure of these Governments in India and to assist the Government of India's anti-inflationary measures, the question of profits does not arise.

(d) Even if there were any question of profits, the sales, being Governmental and not in the nature of trade or business transactions, were not liable to income-tax.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Honourable Member seen any statement that the Government of South Africa made a profit of one million pounds sterling on the sale of gold in India? Is that a fact?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: There are several questions on that on the order paper today.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the United States Government's was the larger share or the smaller share out of this profit?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: There is also a question on that. I will give the answer later.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When gold was being sold here as a commodity and when Government knew that those two Governments, the United Kingdom and the U. S. Governments, were making a heavy profit, what was it that prevented the Government of India either from claiming a share of the profit or imposing an import duty on this gold?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have explained the nature of the transaction. . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The nature of it was explained by the Honourable Member. This gold was sold in order to pay for their purchases in this country. Therefore it was a sort of barter arrangement between their commodities and our commodities, I think. That is why I am asking the Honourable Member to give me an answer to the other question, that I have put, viz., what was it that prevented the Government of India from imposing an import duty on the sale of gold in this country in order to claim a portion of the abnormal profits that those people made?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I say that it is contrary to all international practice to impose an import duty on the property of another Government.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered that in effect this meant that the United States Government and the British Government were able to take our commodities, for which this gold was used for paying, a little cheaper (to the extent of the profit) and, if so, will Government state whether they took any steps to compensate India in respect of those commodity prices?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The gold, as far as I understand, was sold for what it would fetch in the market, like any other commodity.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It did fetch more than the world price: these other Governments made a profit on the gold which they sold in India, and the profit they made was used to make other purchases here: but did Government take any steps by way of regulating commodity prices against these two large Governments to recover a little of what they were making by way of profit?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: My Honourable friend is a business man and he sells his articles for what he can get for them, I suppose. On the second point, as far as I know, no step was taken.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the price of gold was fixed by the Government of India or was it fixed by the owner of the gold or did the Reserve Bank of India allow it to be sold to the highest bidder?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think the last.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if any portion of the gold sold here on behalf of the United Kingdom belonged to the United Kingdom or whether the entire gold belonged to South Africa and it was sold through the United Kingdom and the United Kingdom made a profit?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have no information as to the ownerships of the gold. I imagine it was His Majesty's Government who imported it from South Africa; but I have no official information.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Did not the Honourable Member read in a newspaper article that Mr. Hofmayer, the Minister in South Africa, stated that the entire gold belonged to him and it was sold through the United Kingdom and they shared the profit half and half?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: There are questions on that on the paper.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that in pursuing this policy, which the Honourable Member has stated, the South African Government used Reserve Bank as a black market for the sale of gold?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not think it was a black market: the prices are published in the papers every day.

DECIMAL SYSTEM OF COINAGE

292. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member reached any conclusions with regard to changes in the coinage of the country so as to adopt the decimal system?

(b) Why has not this matter been brought before the Legislature?

(c) Have Government made any commitments in regard to this matter? If so, what are they?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Decision in the matter of the decimalization of the Indian coinage system rests with the Indian Legislature.

(b) A Bill is being introduced to-day to effect amendments of the Coinage Act necessary for the decimalization of the coinage.

(c) No commitments in regard to the decimalization of the coinage have been entered into by Government in anticipation of the decision of the Legislature.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have any opinions been called for already from the provincial governments on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes; a very large volume of opinion has been obtained.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are they unanimous?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir; such opinions never are.

INCREASED ISSUE OF PAPER CURRENCY

293. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the reason why the increase in the issue of paper-currency is persisted in by the Reserve Bank of India when the war is over and the army is being disbanded?

(b) Is the increase in the issue of paper currency in India due to the fact that more money is required by the British Government for the rehabilitation of countries like Burma, Malaya, etc., and also for the United Kingdom? If so, what is the total amount of money so raised in India and the amount required by the United Kingdom for each of the countries to be rehabilitated?

(c) Was any demand made by the Government of the United Kingdom, by the Government of Burma or Malaya?

(d) What is the safeguard for the money thus raised?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Notes are issued only in response to demands by the public and Government. The amount of currency in circulation depends not only on war expenditure but on a number of other factors, such as the volume of cash disbursements on Government civil account, the intensity of commercial and industrial activity, the general level of prices and the degree of liquidity preference on the part of institutions and the public generally.

(b) and (c). The Government of India have agreed to meet certain requirements for the rehabilitation of Burma but not of any other country. The total amount of currency issued to the Government of Burma since V. J. Day is Rs. 2-2/3rd crores.

(d) The ultimate safeguard is the credit of His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (a) of the question, may I ask a question which the Honourable Member said previously that it did not arise. Why are Government still continuing a policy which permits His Majesty's Government to purchase in this country against the tender of sterling, and what are the reasons why it cannot be stopped? The Honourable Member promised to answer this.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will give that in my Budget speech.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am obliged for the assurance. I had similar assurances from the previous Finance Member but he never did the various things he promised later on. May we not request the Honourable Member to give us a statement on this subject, if not today, in the next few days, separately from the Budget speech?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: All I can say in the next few days is that the question is under examination.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member said in answer to the first part that there was another question on this subject. I naturally expected he would answer it now. Now he says we should wait till the Budget.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have answered it in (a).

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: About these notes they have printed on behalf of Burma Government, I should like to know in what form the paper currency reserve for these notes was kept, as backing for these notes. Is it from actual reserves or from the reserves of the Burma Government?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It was against sterling by His Majesty's Government.

Mr. P. B. Gole: In reply to part (d), what steps have been taken, or is the safeguard only in the sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have answered that under (d).

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member give the justification which Government had for the continuance of the use of this machinery of note issue after the stoppage of hostilities—part (a) of the question? What possible justification do Government have for the use of section 41 and the issue of more notes since the stoppage of hostilities? Will the Honourable Member reply now or will he do it in his speech on the Budget?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will do it in my Budget speech.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Do I understand that by printing notes for the Government of Burma we are increasing our sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Certainly.

RATES OF INTEREST OF LOANS FLOATED IN UNITED KINGDOM

294. ***Mr. P. B. Gole:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the maximum and minimum rates of interest on loans floated in the United Kingdom on behalf of the Government of India during the last 50 years; and

(b) the rate of interest charged by the Government of India on the sterling balances accumulated in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) The maximum rate was 7 per cent. and the minimum $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

(b) As the sterling balances accumulated in the United Kingdom belong to the Reserve Bank of India, the question of the Government of India charging interest on such balances does not arise.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Do the sterling balances carry no interest at all?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes; of course they do.

Mr. Manu Subedar: How much?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It varies with the security which the Reserve Bank buys.

DECISIONS OF BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE

295. ***Mr. P. B. Gole:** (a) When did the Honourable the Finance Member give an undertaking to give this Assembly an opportunity to discuss and record their opinion upon the conclusions reached at Bretton Woods Conference so far as they affected India?

(b) Did Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai sign the Washington Agreement which embodied the decisions of the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference? If so, on whose instructions did Sir Girja Shankar sign the Washington Agreement?

(c) If the Government of India issued any such instructions, why were such instructions issued without consulting this House beforehand?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) On the 14th February 1945.

(b) Yes; on the instructions of the Government of India.

(c) I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to my speech in the debate in this House on the Bretton Woods Agreements on the 28th January 1946.

STERLING BALANCES FOR PURPOSES OF TRADE

296. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) What steps has the Honourable the Finance Member taken or intends to take in order to make available the Sterling Balances for the purposes of trade?

(b) Will such balances be available for India for the purchase of capital goods from any country?

(c) Will the Sterling Balances be available for India's use immediately or by instalments?

(d) If by instalment, what period will be covered by the instalment, and the total of each instalment?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to reply given to parts (d) and (e) of Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 74, on 7th February 1946.

(b), (c) and (d). All these questions will be matters for discussion at the negotiations which are pending between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India on the subject of the accumulated sterling balances.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that those replies were unsatisfactory, we are coming over again with queries on the same very important subject. Will not my Honourable friend tell this House whether Government have asked His Majesty's Government to send representatives here to open negotiations on the question of the sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If I may say so with respect that is taking a little unfair advantage. Normally communications between this Government and His Majesty's Government are confidential. The Honourable Member knows from the discussions in the committee that I have, at the special request of the committee, sent such a communication to His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I was unable to disclose that information to the House, and I took the opportunity in the House of getting the information now made public to everybody that such an approach had been made. May I know whether an assurance of any kind has been asked from His Majesty's Government to wipe out the effect of the sentiments expressed by Sir John Anderson and Mr. Churchill on the subject of the sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am not going to go any further into the nature of the correspondence that took place.

Seth Govind Das: On a point of order, Sir. The two chamber clocks show different times. Which is to be taken as the correct time?

Mr. President: So far as question hour goes, I take the longer time for the time limit.

Srijut Dharendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: I rise to a point of order. There are two clocks

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is repeating the same point.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Are they electrically controlled?

Mr. President: I believe so. Let us not take up further time over this.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether Government have made an estimate of their immediate requirements of currencies other than sterling and have broached the subject of the conversion of sterling into these other currencies?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That investigation is proceeding at the present moment.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the credit standing in India's favour in the dollar pool?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That question does not arise.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How much of the sterling balances is convertible into dollars for the use of India?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The dollar pool is not in this question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I submit it arises out of part (b) of the question: "Will such balances be available for India for the purchase of capital goods from any country?" If sterling is converted into dollars, then naturally we are entitled to use them for purchases in the U. S. A.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Dollars have been so converted into sterling. That is the whole essence of the Dollar Pool.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have the Government of India represented to His Majesty's Government that India is not bound by the provisions of the Anglo-American Agreement which are prejudicial to the interests of India?

(No reply.)

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I then ask whether Government will consider the advisability of representing to His Majesty's Government that India is not bound by those clauses of the American loan agreement which are prejudicial to India?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Certainly.

Mr. P. B. Gole: According to the conditions laid down in the Washington Agreement less than 10 per cent. of the sterling balances would be available for immediate payment.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not understand how you get that calculation. We are not a party to the Anglo-American Agreement.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have not various economic and financial journals in Britain been flinging out articles saying that India will not be able to obtain even the fraction mentioned by my Honourable friend here?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am not responsible for the opinions of economic and other journals in England.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is Government doing to safeguard India's interests in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Everything that is possible.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Government of India take an assurance from the United Kingdom on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: On what subject?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: On the subject of sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: We are going to discuss the whole question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The full payment of the sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is one of the things we are going to discuss.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government of India inform the British Government about the anxiety felt in this country about the articles written in such

important British papers as the *Economist* and the *Manchester Guardian* on the question of the scaling down of the sterling securities?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think Prof. Ranga can take it that I shall do my best to do my duty.

Mr. P. B. Gole: By what percentage were the sterling balances to be scaled down according to Article 10?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: By no percentage at all.

QUOTA OF CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

297. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member agreed to contribute to the International Monetary Fund? If so, what is the quota which Government have agreed to contribute?

(b) What arrangements have been made to pay the quota?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) By signing the Articles of Agreement of the Fund, India has undertaken to subscribe to the Fund the quota allotted to her, India's quota is 400 million dollars.

(b) None, except that an advance payment of one hundredth of one per cent. of the quota amounting to Rs. 1.3 lakhs has been made towards the initial expenses of the Fund.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: By what time may we be asked to contribute to the Fund?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have no information on the point.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Would it not be less than six months from now?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I believe the Americans will be able to start the fund by then certainly.

WARNING AGAINST VIOLENT SUPPRESSION OF FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

298. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the warning given by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the A.P.I. New Delhi message, dated November 10th, to the British and other Allied Nations against violently suppressing the freedom movements of South East Asia;

(b) if Government have taken care to inform the British and the Allied Governments about Pandit Nehru's warning; and

(c) whether Government have made known to the British Government about his voicing of the resentment felt by the Indian public against the use of Indian troops against the Indonesians?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No, Sir, the general state of Indian public opinion has been explained to His Majesty's Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know why the Government of India have not taken care to inform the British and Allied Governments about Pandit Nehru's views?

Mr. P. Mason: We have explained to His Majesty's Government the general state of public opinion in India. We have not attempted to communicate the views of everyone in this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does that appreciation of the state of public opinion in this country also refer to the adjournment motion passed in this House in the first instance and also the later adjournment motion passed in regard to the same question?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did the Government of India inform the British Government as well as the U. N. O. delegates about the strong exception taken by this House over failure of this Government in communicating the results of the first adjournment motion in this House?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think that arises out of this question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It arises out of part (c). Let my Honourable friend look into it again: "The resentment felt by the Indian public against the use of Indian troops against the Indonesians".

Mr. P. Mason: We have told His Majesty's Government the general state of Indian opinion, including the point you have just made. The U. N. O. delegation does not arise out of this question, and in any case should not be addressed to me.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Has the Honourable Member informed His Majesty's Government about the opinion of this House as well?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir, as I have repeatedly said.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is it that prevents this Government of India from agreeing with the opinion expressed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and also expressed repeatedly in this House?

Mr. P. Mason: Their own opinion.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member said that he did not attempt to give everybody's opinion in this country. Does he know that Pandit Nehru does not come under the category of 'everybody'?

(No reply.)

FINANCIAL ASPECT OF POST-WAR PLANS OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

299. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development give a summary of the financial aspect of the plans of the Government of India and of the various Provincial Governments?

(b) What undertaking have the Government of India given to the Provincial Governments to finance their schemes wholly or partly?

(c) How much money will the Government of India give to the Provincial Governments for this purpose during the next budget year?

(d) How much money have the Government of India provided for the importation of the machinery required for the various Departments of the Government of India in connection with their post-war plans?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a), (b), (c) and (d). I would ask the Honourable Member to await my Budget speech.

Mr. Manu Subedar: We are anxious about one fact. It appears from newspaper reports and the summaries by the news agencies upstairs that the Government of India is committing themselves to a grant of 60 crores of rupees to various provinces, which will not be recoverable. Is that so?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The figure is wrong and the nature of the grant is wrong. The Government have for some time told the provinces that they could plan on the basis of a five year period and that they could reasonably expect to get some money from the Centre and the grants made are advances against those sums.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (d), I respectfully submit that this is an issue which ought not to wait till the Budget speech. What we want to know is: in what manner, up to what limits and of what order are the sums for the purchase of machinery by various Government Departments themselves. We hear that machinery for various departments such as Railways, Public Works, etc., is running into crores of rupees. In other words, several hundred crores worth of orders are being placed in the United Kingdom on Government account during the current period. That is the question.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If it were so, it would reduce the sterling balances.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are the orders being placed?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am afraid I have not got the information readily available but I will get it for the Honourable Member.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that many Honourable Members do not agree with the policy of Government about their planning? Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of not spending any money on this planning without giving an opportunity to this House to express their opinion on the planning policy of the Government?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think the House will have plenty of opportunity in the course of the next three weeks to examine the proposals.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask the Honourable Member not to include any item in the Budget about planning policy without taking the opinion of the House?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have included them in the Budget and it is for the House to do what they like with it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any plans are complete? What are their financial implications? How much does the Centre bear and how much do the Provinces bear?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: There are several plans, and some of them are complete.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What proportion of contribution does he propose to include in his Budget for use by the provinces?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Approximately thirty crores.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What percentage of the total financial cost of all the plans?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The total plans for all the provinces within the next five years added up cost about Rs. 900 crores.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Honourable Member has examined the position that their planning is the planning for millionaires and billionnaires and not for the benefit of the poor people?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If I spot any such plans, I will throw them out.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Thirty crores out of a total of 900 crores seem to be very small proportion. May I know from the Honourable Member on what basis the contribution of 30 crores is made?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It is a start.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does it mean that the Government of India propose to contribute the entire 900 crores to the Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not think, they can, even if they want to do. They have no such intention.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the present proposal? What percentage do the Government propose to contribute to Provinces in instalments?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It was not any expressed proportion of expenditure incurred by Provinces. The Provinces were told that they could plan on the basis of this that they may expect from the Centre, during the first five years, approximately Rs. 250 crores in total.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the Government's statement on the subject was very obscure, may I know what portion of Government of India's contribution is intended to be recovered and what portion will be given in the shape of grants which will not be recovered? Will the Honourable Member issue a statement clarifying the position?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I shall have a look at the statement again today. I do not think myself that the statement was obscure.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how the Government of India propose to make this advance of Rs. 250 crores, is it from revenue or by way of loan?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Both, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What percentage by way of loan and what percentage from revenues?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Approximately equal percentages.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were the provinces consulted in the matter or was the whole thing arbitrarily fixed?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It was done in closest consultation with the provinces.

RECIPROCITY REGARDING REPRESENTATION OF PRESSMEN

300. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) if press representatives from other countries of the world are allowed to stay in India and send out messages to their respective countries, if so, what countries are represented by pressmen or press agencies;

(b) if pressmen or any kind of our representatives are allowed in those countries;

(c) if there are any such countries which do not allow pressmen from India into their countries; and

(d) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether he proposes to consider taking necessary action to put matters on a basis of absolute reciprocity?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes. America, Russia, China, France, Australia and New Zealand.

(b) and (c). As far as the Government of India are aware, no case has arisen of refusal by these countries to allow representatives of the Indian Press to enter them.

(d) The question does not arise.

I.N.A. PERSONNEL IN MILITARY CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN INDIA AND OUTSIDE

301. *Sri V. Gangaraju: (a) Will the War Secretary please state how many I.N.A. officers and other ranks are still in military concentration camps in India and how many are outside India?

(b) What is the number of camps in which I.N.A. men are kept?

(c) How many camps are located in each Province, and how many I.N.A. men are kept in each camp?

(d) How many of the I.N.A. men have been interrogated till now? After interrogation how many of them have been released?

(e) What is the number of I.N.A. women?

(f) Have Government brought any of the I.N.A. women to India, If so, what is their number and in what camps and in which Provinces are they kept and what is the policy of Government with regard to I.N.A. women's release?

(g) How many I.N.A. Medical Officers are there in military concentration camps in India and outside India?

(h) Do Government pay salaries to the I.N.A. Medical Officers? If so, to how many, and what amounts?

(i) Why Government still keep the I.N.A. medical men in detention when there are no charges of crimes and atrocities against them? When do Government propose to release them?

(j) In view of the proved patriotism of the I.N.A. men, are Government prepared to absorb suitable men of the I.N.A. in Government employment?

Mr. P. Mason: There are no concentration camps. I assume the Honourable Member means Holding and Enquiry centres.

(a) Since I answered two similar questions last Tuesday, information has come to hand about further arrivals from overseas. The total numbers of military members of the I. N. A. at Holding and Enquiry centres in India on the 2nd February was 5,440. There were approximately 3,022 still held overseas.

(b) and (c). Of these 5,440 persons 3,367 were in Jhingerghacha, 1,579 in Multan, 127 in Delhi Cantonment, 82 in the Red Fort, 31 at Bairagarh, and 254 were in hospitals.

(d) As stated before approximately 11,000 have been interrogated, of whom all have been released unconditionally except for the 28 who were convicted.

(e) and (f). About 500, none of whom have been brought to India. As regards Government's policy for dealing with them, I understand from the Home Department which is the Department concerned, that there is no objection to their coming to India and they will not be held for interrogation when they come.

(g), (h) and (i). 37 in India and 7 overseas. These officers receive the same treatment as other military officers who joined the I. N. A. Their cases are being investigated as rapidly as possible and 14 have already been released.

(j) I cannot agree that their patriotism has been proved and have already explained the reasons why they cannot be found any further employment.

Seth Govind Das: Is there any I. N. A. camp in Jubbulpore?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir.

Seth Govind Das: How is it that so many I. N. A. prisoners are released from Jubbulpore?

Mr. P. Mason: As I have explained already, those who were classified as having been misled are discharged and not dismissed. They go to their regimental centres where their final accounts their clothing and things of that kind are settled up. They remain in the regimental centres, as a rule for five or ten days. That must be the reason, for their going to Jubbulpore.

Seth Govind Das: Has the Honourable Member seen a statement issued by a released prisoner from Jubbulpore jail about the atrocities committed in Jubbulpore jail itself?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. If it was in Jubbulpore jail, then he was not a military member of I. N. A.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable Member referred to military I. N. A. men. May I enquire whether any member of civil I. N. A. has been brought to India?

Mr. P. Mason: I want notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who deals with the civilian section of I. N. A. men?

Mr. P. Mason: The Honourable the Home Member.

VICTORY-DAY PARADE AT DELHI

302. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if arrangements are being made to celebrate the Victory Day once again by a parade of the troops at Delhi during this year?

(b) Is it proposed to bring in all units of the army from the various parts of India on that day, including officers and other Ranks?

(c) How many soldiers are likely to take part, and what is the probable cost of (i) bringing in the soldiers and their transportation allowances, and (ii) their arrangements here?

(d) What was the cost to the Central Exchequer for the celebration of the V.-G and V.-J days and other parades held on the occasion of the distribution of Victoria Crosses, separately?

(e) What is the need for having a parade once again in Delhi?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir. Victory Week will be celebrated in Delhi, from the 4th to the 9th of next month, and a Victory Parade will be held on the 7th.

(b) No, Sir, not all units. Selected units which are representative of India's fighting forces are coming from various parts of India and will take part in the Victory Parade.

(c) About 10,000. It is estimated that the expenditure on their transportation to Delhi and back will be in the neighbourhood of 4 lakhs of rupees. The estimated expenditure on other arrangements in Delhi is Rs. 6 lakhs which includes accommodation but not such items as rations which are a normal charge wherever troops may be.

(d) The information asked for is not readily available. I am collecting it and shall lay a statement on the table in due course.

(e) Because, Sir, with the help of God and our allies, we have defeated the greatest military power in history.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the present distressing circumstances in the country and of its poverty, do the Government not think this will be a waste of money?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the victory which is being celebrated?

Mr. P. Mason: Victories over Germany and Japan.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Is it the victory of Imperialism over Fascism?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether this victory was not celebrated individually over Germany as V. E. day and over Japan as V. J. day?

Mr. P. Mason: Small local celebrations were held, but it was announced at the time that there would be an opportunity for more organised celebrations during the winter.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Was there not a celebration here in Delhi during that period?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the famine staring the country in the face and in view of the prospect of a deficit Budget which the Honourable the Finance Member is going to present, is it too late to stop this heavy expenditure which my Honourable friend thinks will be incurred?

Mr. P. Mason: It is too late to stop the major part of the expenditure which was on accommodation.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the broadcast speech of His Excellency the Viceroy, may I know if these questions and answers had been communicated to His Excellency for further consideration?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir, I have only just answered these questions. I do not quite see the relevancy because the amount of food that will be consumed will be exactly the same wherever the troops are. They eat just the same.

VERIFICATION OF REPORT OF DEATH OF NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

303. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (on behalf of **Shri Mohan Lal Saksena**): (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether Government took any steps to verify the reported death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose? If so, what?

(b) What are the names of all the important Indians associated with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose who are supposed to have gone into hiding?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to Sardar Mangal Singh's starred question No. 223, on the 12th February.

(b) The only important associates of Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose whose present whereabouts are unknown are Messrs. Deb Nath Das and A. N. Sarkar.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DEFINITION OF THE TERM "PENSION".

304. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to his reply to starred question No. 1277 of the 22nd March, 1945, and to the definition of the term "Pension" given in Section 311 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and state the statutory authority:

(i) for the declaration that Section 136 of the Army Act applies only to "Pay" and not to "Pension"; and

(ii) for treating "Pension" as an emolument independent of the statutory definition which makes it include "retired pay", payable in respect of service rendered?

(b) Does he propose to take action in cases affected by the declaration in (a) above? If so, what?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). The distinction between military pay and pension is a matter of the interpretation of the Army Act and the Indian Army Act. The interpretation given by my predecessor has the support of long usage, and has not so far as I am aware previously been challenged.

Section 311 of the Government of India Act of 1935 is irrelevant to the interpretation of the Army Act.

DISTINCTION BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S INDIAN FORCES AND HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES IN INDIA

305. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to starred question No. 1394 of the 27th March, 1945, and state:

(i) if Government has not distinguished between His Majesty's Indian Forces and "His Majesty's Forces in India" referred to in section 235 of the Government of India Act 1935; and

(ii) if the rules embodied in Pension Regulations 1940, governing stoppages, forfeiture, reductions, deductions in respect of emoluments of "Pay", "retired Pay", disability Pension, family Pensions, Victoria Cross Allowance and Jangi Inam to personnel of His Majesty's Indian Forces have, in fact, been framed with the previous approval of the Secretary of State for India or of the Secretary of State as referred to in that section of the Government of India Act?

(b) Does he propose to review the rules in (a) above? If so, when? If not, why not?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I am afraid my predecessor's reply to Starred Question No. 1394, of the 27th March, 1945, was misleading. Section 235 of the Constitution Act empowers the Secretary of State to specify what rules or regulations shall be made with his consent, and the rules made by the Governor-General are not made under the authority of that section.

The rules in Pension Regulations for the Army in India were made by the Governor-General, and in respect of the personnel referred to in Rule 1 thereof, most of whom are personnel of His Majesty's Indian Forces, they have received the approval of the Secretary of State.

The expression "His Majesty's Forces in India" includes "His Majesty's Indian Forces".

(b) Attention is drawn to the press note issued on the 29th January, 1946, announcing the appointment of a committee to make recommendations on the Post-war pay, allowances and pensions of the three Defence Services. The terms of reference of the committee, as already announced, are to review the

rates and the rules for the grant of pay and allowances, pensions and gratuities of the Indian Armed Forces and personnel of the British Armed Forces serving in India, and to make recommendations on these matters to the Government of India.

STOPPAGE OF ALLOWANCES TO INDIAN PERSONNEL FOR SPECIAL DEEDS OF BRAVERY

306. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that Victoria Cross Allowance, Military Cross Allowance, and Jangi Inams which His Excellency the Governor General of India has granted to the Indian personnel in respect of special deeds of bravery, have been stopped by the orders of officers other than the prescribed officers and no notice has been taken of Section 300 (2) of the Government of India Act, 1935, which enacts that no "pension" shall be stopped or reduced except on orders by His Excellency the Governor General in exercise of his individual judgment?

(b) Does he propose to give any other relief to persons and families affected by the stoppage referred to in (a)? If so, what? If not, why not?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) No, Sir. If the Honourable Member will give me details of any such cases I shall have the matter looked into.

(b) Does not arise.

VALUE OF HIGH DENOMINATION NOTES IN CIRCULATION

307. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of high denomination notes in circulation in India before the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Ordinance came into force;

(b) the total value of such notes which were exchanged for notes of small denomination—after this Ordinance came into force;

(c) whether the Honourable Member is aware of the fact that the time limit given was quite insufficient for the illiterate public of the villages who live hundreds of miles away from the treasury in the interior of the country; and

(d) if Government are aware that this rule of fixing time limit for the exchange of high denomination notes and submitting the holder of such notes to a searching inquiry is a distinct departure from the procedure pursued in other western countries specially England where holders of such notes have been granted indefinite period to exchange these notes and no enquiry is made in general, regarding the whereabouts of such notes?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer I gave on the 12th February 1946, to part (a) of the starred question No. 213, by Mr. Venkatasubba Reddiar.

(b) Rs. 120.08 crores up to the 9th February 1946.

(c) I do not share the Honourable Member's view judging by the amount of high denomination notes exchanged so far. I assume that he has seen Finance Department Notification No. D. 559-FIII/46, dated the 26th January, 1946, which provides for a further extension of the time-limit at the discretion of the Governor and the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank in special cases.

(d) Yes, Sir, but the measures taken were much less strong than in one of the countries which the Honourable Member no doubt has in mind.

BLACK MARKETING IN HIGH DENOMINATION NOTES

308. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) how far the Government of India have been successful in achieving their object for which the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Ordinance was promulgated;

(b) the number of cases of black-market and bribery which have been detected on account of the promulgation of this Ordinance; and

(c) if it is a fact that notes of high denominations i.e. of Rs. 1,000 each have been sold for six to eight hundred rupees in some parts of this country; if so, the number of cases detected, of this nature?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) and (b). Pending the results of a scrutiny of the declaration forms it will be premature to give an appreciation of the position, but I am very satisfied with the progress made to date.

(c) I am not able to confirm the report to which the Honourable Member refers; nor have I yet heard from the Provincial Governments of any prosecutions recommended by them.

HARASSING TREATMENT BY THE INCOME-TAX OFFICER, CHHINDWARA

309. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that there is considerable resentment amongst the Income-tax assesses of the Seoni town and Sub-Division in the Chhindwara District, Chhindwara Income-tax Circle, in the Central Provinces due to the humiliating and harassing treatment given to them by the Income-tax Officer, Chhindwara, who gives day to day adjournments and keeps the persons summoned waiting from 11 A.M. to 6 P.M.?

(b) Is it a fact that cases are seldom called at the hours stated in the summons and that in one case a person was called for five consecutive days and in another for eight days by enforcing daily adjournments?

(c) Is it a fact that cases have been fixed by him on Sundays and then the unfortunate parties have been made to wait till 4 p. m. as the Officer, in question, was getting his car repaired till 2 p.m. and then went out to take its trial for another two hours?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to take steps to put an end to this state of affairs as no action has been taken by the Income-tax Commissioner, Central Province and United Province, Lucknow, though the relevant information had reached him?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Allegations such as those made by the Honourable Member have not been brought to the notice of either the Commissioner of Income-tax or the higher authorities concerned, since Mr. Gwalre was transferred to Chhindwara. Such complaints were, however, made during the time Mr. Gwalre was posted at Saugor. Government will not tolerate such conduct in a public servant and it is largely due to Mr. Gwalre's erratic habits that the Commissioner did not permit him to cross the second efficiency bar and that he has been given notice that he will be compulsorily retired from service as from the 28th of June 1946. In fact he is now on leave preparatory to retirement. It is incorrect to suggest that the Commissioner of Income-tax concerned has not taken any action.

PUBLICATION OF NOTES re LEND-LEASE ARRANGEMENT WITH U.S.A.

310. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to the assurance given by Sir Jeremy Raisman in the Legislative Assembly on the 28th March, 1945, as reported at page 2065 of the Assembly Debates of that date, that an exhaustive note dealing with the lend-lease arrangements with U.S.A. will be prepared and published? If so, when can a publication of this nature be expected to be available to the Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: With your permission Sir, I propose to answer questions 310 and 311 together.

Lease-lend and Reciprocal Aid arrangements with United States of America as well as the Mutual Aid arrangements with Canada terminated on the 2nd September 1945. The compilation of the data relating to these arrangements is in progress. Discussions will be started in March with the United States Government in Washington to arrive at a settlement. A full statement to the House will be made in due course.

EFFECT OF TERMINATION OF LEND-LEASE AND REVERSE LEND-LEASE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN U.S.A. AND INDIA

†311. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether the lend-lease and reverse lend-lease arrangements between U. S. A. and India, as also the operation of the Indo-Canadian Mutual aid agreement, have been terminated? If so, with effect from which date?

(b) When is the accounting of the lend-lease and reverse lend-lease arrangements between U. S. A. and India and the mutual aid agreement between India and Canada, likely to be completed?

TRIAL OF BIHAREE I.N.A. MEN

312. ***Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain:** (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the number of Biharee I.N.A. men who are under custody, and whether they are going to be tried by court-martial?

(b) How many of them are Muslims?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) So far as I have been able to ascertain in the time at my disposal, four I. N. A. men from Bihar have been brought back to India. No evidence has yet come to light which would render them liable to court-martial.

(b) Apparently there are no Muslims amongst them.

AMOUNT OF COLLECTION OF DIFFERENT WAR FUNDS

313. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the total amount collected under the following heads in the whole of India during the past six years (i) Governor's War Funds, (ii) Red Cross donations, and (iii) other war funds and contributions from British India;

(b) the amounts still outstanding (unspent) in those funds, and what is proposed to be done with them;

(c) whether the accounts of those funds were audited by qualified auditors; and

(d) whether it is proposed to consult the public who contributed these funds as to the disposal of the balances, if any?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: The Government of India have no information readily available in regard to the various Provincial Governors' War Funds or Red Cross collections or other war funds. As regards the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, the answers are:

(a) Rs. 12,83,00,000 of which about Rs. 6,75,00,000 have been contributed by the States.

(b) Rs. 1,69,00,000. Of this Rs. 41 lakhs were contributed for specific purposes such as the Red Cross, the benevolent funds of the Services, etc. Arrangements are being made for their transfer to these objects. Amongst these earmarked donations is a gift of Rs. 14 lakhs from the Sudan Government in commemoration of the part played by Indian troops in the defence of the Sudan. His Excellency with the approval of the Sudan Government proposes to devote this sum to the Military Academy which is being set up as the Indian War Memorial. The remaining Rs. 128 lakhs represent contributions not earmarked by the donors for any specific purpose, which are to be spent at His Excellency's discretion on beneficent purposes connected with the war. On this matter His Excellency is advised by an Appeal Committee created to help him in the administration of the Fund.

(c) Yes; by the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, as Honorary Auditor.

(d) The disposal of the balances is now under His Excellency's consideration, and will be done in consultation with his Committee, in furtherance of the objects of the Fund.

PROFITS DUE TO SALE OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD TO INDIA

314. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the Reuter news from Cape Town, published on page 3 of the Evening News of the *Hindustan Times* of the 2nd of February that the South African Finance Minister, Mr. J. F. Hofmeyr, stated in the Assembly, that the Union Treasury was benefited by £1,072,182 being her share of profits made on sale of gold to India?

(b) What is the total amount of gold sold to India by South Africa, from June 1940 to September 1945, and what were the purchase and sale prices, and through which Agency the gold was sold?

(c) What is the share of the British Government in the profits made in the transaction? Why was it allowed to intervene and why did not the Government of India have direct dealings with South Africa?

(d) Did any portion of the profits go to the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) No Sir, I rarely look at the *Hindustan Times* unless it contains a Shankar cartoon; but my attention has been drawn to a similar article.

(b) No gold was sold to India by South Africa.

(c) and (d). The gold was sold in India on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States of America to assist them in meeting their war expenditure in India. A similar arrangement with the South African Government was not necessary. The Government of India are not aware of the arrangements between His Majesty's Government and the South African Government.

CANCELLATION OF ARMS LICENCES BY THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, DELHI

315. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the District Magistrate, Delhi, has cancelled recently and is still cancelling a large number of licences for guns and revolvers on the ground that the holders of these licences did not purchase any ammunition during the last four or five years?

(b) Is it a fact that among the persons whose licences have thus been cancelled are high Government Officials and Government pensioners, some of whom have been holding these licences for the last twenty years or even longer?

(c) Is it not a fact that during the period of war ammunition was not easily available and it was very difficult for the civil population to obtain it?

(d) Is the action of the District Magistrate, Delhi, a part of any new policy of Government to disarm completely the civil population?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above is in the negative, do Government propose to direct the District Magistrate, Delhi, to stop cancelling any more licences and renew those which he has already cancelled on the ground mentioned above?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Licences of serving Government officials have not been cancelled and if those of Government pensioners have been cancelled, it is because there is evidence to show that such persons are not in need of fire arms.

(c) Recently, yes; but ammunition was available in sufficient quantity until 1942.

(d) No.

(e) No.

TRIAL OF RAJA MAHENDRA PRATAP IN JAPAN

316. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) whether Raja Mahendra Pratap is being tried as a war criminal in Japan;

(b) whether the Government of India was informed of this decision; whether there are any arrangements for his defence; and

(c) whether proper facilities will be given to any of his relations or friends who may wish to go to Japan for his defence?

Mr. P. Mason: This question should have been addressed to the Secretary, External Affairs Department, who has agreed to answer it on the 22nd of February 1946.

CANCELLATION OF WARRANT OF ARREST AGAINST JWALA PRASAD

317. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if, in view of the changed political circumstances, Government are contemplating cancellation of the warrant of arrest issued against Jwala Prasad of Ajmer? If not, why?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The warrant has been cancelled.

CANCELLATION OF DETENTION ORDER AGAINST MR. RAGHURAJ SINGH

318. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state the particulars of the various charges, and the detention orders made under Rules 129 and 26 of the Defence of India Rules against Mr. Raghuraj Singh, M.A., at present confined in the Central Jail Ajmer?

(b) Are Government now contemplating to advise the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to cancel the detention order against Mr. Raghuraj Singh, M.A., and also to remit his remaining term of imprisonment, in view of the changed political situation? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). Mr. Raghuraj Singh was undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for having escaped from jail while a security prisoner. He has now been released.

REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS AGAINST RAJA MAHENDRA PRATAP

319. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state if Raja Mahendra Pratap has been brought to India under arrest? If so, where and under what conditions is he being kept at present?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, do Government propose to disclose his present whereabouts?

(c) Are Government aware that Raja Mahendra Pratap has all along been an advocate of world peace, and has always worked for humanitarian and pacifist policies like the establishment of a World Federation?

(d) If Government have any information that the Aryan Army founded by Raja Mahendra Pratap was not an army to take part in the war but a body of volunteers and pacifists to work against all wars?

(e) In view of the changed political circumstances and public opinion, and particularly, in view of the Government's policy regarding the I.N.A. men, do Government propose to remove restrictions on the free and unhampered movement of Raja Mahendra Pratap in India?

Mr. P. Mason: This question should have been addressed to the Secretary, External Affairs Department, who has agreed to answer it on the 22nd of February 1946.

GRIEVANCES OF R.A.F. AND R.I.A.F. PERSONNEL

320. *Diwan Chaman Lal: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of Royal Air Force and Royal Indian Air Force personnel, which recently went on strike;

(b) the reasons for the strike; and

(c) the action taken by Government to redress their grievances?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The R. A. F. personnel in question refused their duty for reasons connected with the R. A. F. demobilization scheme which is the concern of His Majesty's Government. No further reply therefore in respect of these personnel is proposed.

In respect of R.I.A.F. personnel, the numbers totalled approximately 5,200.

(b) and (c). Sir, I welcome the opportunity of making a statement regarding these acts of collective indiscipline which have been called strikes. To save the time of the House, I lay on the table a statement showing the localities in which these incidents took place and the numbers involved.

The reasons alleged were various, and I have included in the statement laid on the table the measures taken to remedy those in which there was any substance. I would however emphasise the fact that there are legitimate channels for the expression of legitimate grievances and every senior officer is anxious to put them right. There was nothing in any of the minor complaints which justified the action taken by the men.

The true reason behind the men's attitude appears however to be a comparison of their pay and other conditions of service with the British Other Ranks of the R.A.F. The R.I.A.F. are already paid, fed and usually accommodated better than the Indian Army, and it is obvious that to put them on the same level as the R.A.F. would involve corresponding increases in the pay of the other two Services and would either enormously swell the Defence Budget or reduce the size of the Armed Forces which can be maintained in peace. Such an increase would also obviously have repercussions throughout the country. If it is adjudged that such a step is necessary, this would obviously be a most inappropriate time to do it and it should be left to the decision of the future Government. In the meantime, a committee has been appointed to consider the whole question of the pay of the three Services.

I would add a word of warning. The means taken by these men of bringing their wishes to notice was quite unjustifiable, and indiscipline of this nature will not be permitted to continue. If it persists, it will be necessary to take serious disciplinary action.

Statement

The actual incidents, number of personnel involved, and the dates are as follows:—

Drigh Road	700	Jan. 20 and 21
Avadi	500	Jan. 21
Mauripur	450	Jan. 23
Cawnpore	750	Jan. 26 to Jan. 30
Dum Dum	100	Jan. 29
Trichinopoly	250	Feb. 1
Kankinara	600	Feb. 2

Lahore—

(1) 306 Maintenance Unit	350	Feb. 4 and 5
(2) No. 1 Demob Centre	150	Feb. 11 and 12

Yelahanka—

(1) No. 4 RIAF Squadron	200	Feb. 5
(2) HQ. No. 228 Group	80	Feb. 6

Bombay—

(1) Marine Drive Camp	1000	
(2) RIAF Records	400	Feb. 9 and 11
(3) Base Personnel Office	50	...

Delhi

400 Feb. 16

The first incident occurred at Drigh Road, Karachi on January 20th and I have already covered it in my statement to the House on the 4th Feb. 1946 in reply to Diwan Chaman Lal's adjournment motion.

Since January 20th a series of other incidents have occurred. The main complaints related to pay and allowances, demobilization, accommodation, working hours, rations, travelling facilities, canteens and hospitals. In regard to pay and allowances, Government have already announced the appointment of a Pay Committee which is now examining the question of the postwar rates of pay for all three services. As regards R.I.A.F. demobilization some 2,000 personnel were, in fact, demobilized over the period October-December 1945. It is planned to effect the demobilization of a further 5,500 by the end of April

1946 and this programme has been communicated to the men. The scale of R.I.A.F. accommodation is in some respects better than that of the other two Services. The working hours of R.I.A.F. airmen have now been reduced from 8 hours to 7 hours a day, with a break of 1½ hours for lunch. Saturday afternoons and Sundays are holidays. The R.I.A.F. draw a special scale of rations which is equated with that of the R.I.N. and is considerably better than the corresponding Army ration. Canteen services are made available for R.I.A.F. airmen wherever suitable buildings exist. Where such buildings do not exist, R.I.A.F. airmen use R.A.F. canteens. Hospitals are provided for the R.I.A.F. on the same basis as for the Army. Any considerable improvement in the scales of pay and allowances, rations, accommodation, and travelling facilities would have to be extended to all three Services, would involve very large expenditure and, therefore, requires most careful consideration.

The A.O.C.-in-C., Air Marshal Sir Roderick Carr has personally visited Karachi, Cawnpore, and Calcutta and has himself heard the grievances of the men. The present position is that, in all cases except Delhi, the men have resumed work on the assurance that their complaints are being investigated.

NATIONALITIES OF W.A.C. (I₂) OVER THE RANK OF CAPTAIN

321. *Diwan Chaman Lal: Will the War Secretary please state:

- the figures, by nationalities, of the W.A.C.(I) over the rank of Captain as they stand today;
- the number of promotions made of Indians since October 1945;
- the number of A.T.S. of W.A.A.F. and W.R.N.S. who have displaced or are under orders to displace W.A.C.(I); and
- how long it is planned to keep the W.A.C.(I) in existence?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The figures by nationalities of W.A.C.(I) over the rank of Captain are as follows:

	British	Indians	Anglo-Indians	Others
Senior Controller	1	...	...	...
.. Controller	4	...	...	...
Chief Commander	13	1	...	...
Senior Commander	75	4	8	3

(b) (i) 10 Indian officers have been promoted to higher rank since October 1945.

(ii) 7 Indian auxiliaries have been commissioned since October 1945.

(c) No personnel of the W.A.C.(I) have been or will be replaced by W.R.N.S., W.A.A.F. or A.T.S. The W.R.N.S. and W.A.A.F. have worked with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force only in South-East Asia Command, and have never been under the control of the Government of India. As previously explained, the A.T.S. as a Service began in 1938 while the W.A.C.(I) was not formed until 1942, and therefore it was of assistance to the W.A.C.(I) to bring out a small number of A.T.S. to help in training and in filling certain specialist appointments. The total number of A.T.S. at present in India is equal to about 1 per cent. of the whole W.A.C.(I.).

(d) It has already been decided to disband the W.A.C.(I).

TERMS OF ENROLMENT OF W.A.C. (I).

322. *Diwan Chaman Lal: Will the War Secretary please state:

- whether all W.A.C.(I). are enrolled on similar terms irrespective of their nationality;
- whether British personnel is granted short leave to U.K. at Government expense;
- when it is planned to pay war gratuities; and
- the reasons for the resignation of Miss Ranga Rao and Mrs. Srinivasan?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) All W.A.C.(I) are enrolled on the same terms, irrespective of their nationality.

(b) Officers and auxiliaries of the W.A.C.(I) of non-Asiatic domicile are eligible for the grant of 28 days short leave to U. K. at Government expense, subject to the following conditions:

(i) She has, in writing formally deferred her release for one year or more.

(ii) Leave is granted as a reward for good service in the W.A.C.(I) in overseas areas or concessional areas in India where expatriation allowance to Indian soldiers is admissible.

(iii) Preference is given to those individuals who have a minimum of two years service and also to those who have served in operational areas.

The number of vacancies available monthly for W.A.C.(I) personnel proceeding on short leave is 8 per mensem.

(c) War Gratuities admissible to W.A.C.(I) personnel under the provisions of A.I.(I) 798/45 are payable as follows:

(i) Members released during the release period (i.e., on or after the 8th May 1945) are paid immediately on conclusion of release leave.

(ii) Members who became non-effective before the commencement of the normal release period are being paid as rapidly as possible.

(d) The reasons for the resignation of Miss Rangarao and Mrs. Srinivasan have been given in reply to parts (a) and (b) of Starred Question No. 196, asked by Mr. Ayyangar, on the 12th February 1946.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN GAZETTED GRADES OF THE CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT

323. *Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please lay a statement on the table of the House showing the representation of Muslims in the gazetted grades of Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Assistant Collectors and Superintendents, separately, in all the Collectorates of the Central Excise Department of the Government of India?

(b) Will he kindly also state whether the representation of Muslims is being observed in this department in accordance with the policy laid down in the Home Department Resolution of 1934?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, what are the reasons for this departure from the principles enunciated by Government?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) together.

The Honourable Member presumably desires to have figures of appointments in order to verify that the rules relating to communal representation in the services have been properly applied. These rules, I should explain, apply to direct recruitment and not to promotions. The only gazetted grade amongst those mentioned in part (a) of the Honourable Member's question, which is filled, partly at least, by direct recruitment, is the grade of Superintendent in the Collectorates of Allahabad, Calcutta and Delhi. A statement showing the representation of Muslims in this grade as well as in the grades to which the Honourable member has referred, is laid on the table. I have no reason to doubt that the policy laid down in the Home Department Resolution of 1934 is being duly followed in the Central Excise Department.

Statement showing the representation of Muslims in the gazetted grade of Superintendent in the Central Excise Collectorate of Allahabad, Calcutta and Delhi.

(As on 1-1-46)

No.	Name of Collectorate	Total*	Muslims
1	Allahabad	25	9
2	Calcutta	41	8
3	Delhi	34	13

*Half the number of vacancies in this grade are filled by promotion.

Statement showing the representation of Muslims in the various gazetted grades of the Central Excise Collectorates

(As on 1st January 1946.)

No.	Name of Collectorate	Collectors		Dy. Collectors		Asstt. Collectors		Superintendents	
		Total Muslims		Total Muslims		Total Muslims		Total Muslims	
1	Calcutta	1	Nil	1	Nil	8	Nil	41	8
2	Allahabad	1	Nil	1	Nil	7	2	25	9
3	Delhi	1	Nil	...	...	8	1	34	13
4	Bombay	1	Nil	1	Nil	13	2	...	...
5	Madras	1	Nil	1	Nil	10	3	46*	2*

*Inspectors (who correspond to Superintendents in Northern India)

SALE OF GOLD IN INDIA ON BEHALF OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S.A. GOVERNMENT

324. *Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report published on p. 219 of the American magazine *Fortune*, August 1945, stating that "In twenty-two months from August, 1943, sales of gold by Britain and U.S.A. totalled about seven million ounces, or nearly 250 dollars worth figured at the U.S. price of 35 dollars per ounce";

(b) whether the above figure for the period mentioned in part (a) above is correct;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, the amount of gold sold in India on behalf of His Majesty's Government, and the amount on behalf of the Government of the U.S.A.; and

(d) the total amount of gold so far sold on behalf of His Majesty's Government and on behalf of the Government of the U.S.A.?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) and (b). No Sir, I hav'nt the good fortune to have seen the report; but the figures quoted are substantially correct.

(c) and (d). Subject to adjustments, some of which may be substantial, the amounts of gold sold during the period from the 8th August 1943 to the 17th August 1945, on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom and that of the U.S.A. were 4,507,652 and 2,955,993 ounces the total being 7,463,645 ounces.

PROFITS EARNED BY THE BRITISH AND SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ON SALE OF GOLD IN INDIA

325. *Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a Reuter's message, from Cape Town, dated February 1st, 1946, published in the *Times of India*, dated February 2nd, 1946, wherein it is stated as follows:—"The South African Minister of Finance, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, told the Assembly at question time today that the Union Treasury had benefited by £1,072,182 by sharing with the British Government profits made on sale of gold in India. The total amount obtained from gold realisation charges from June 1940 to September 1945 was £11,999,847 where of £10,016,400 have gone to the State and the balance to the gold mines";

(b) if the profit earned by the Union Treasury is of the order of £1,072,182, what has been the profit earned by the British Government on the sale of gold in India;

(c) whether it is a fact, as stated in the message quoted above, that the value of total sales from June, 1940, to September, 1945, was £11,999,847; and

(d) the average price at which this gold was sold in the Indian market?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Government of India have no information.

(d) No South African gold as such was sold in India. Sales on behalf of H.M.G. and U.S.A. were made at the prevailing market price.

METHOD OF PAYMENT BY THE RESERVE BANK FOR THE GOLD SOLD BY HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

326. *Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether His Majesty's Government was paid in sterling by the Reserve Bank of India which handled the sales of gold referred to in the preceding question on behalf of His Majesty's Government;

(b) whether this gold was sold by His Majesty's Government in order to procure finance for their use in India, and whether such rupee finance was disbursed by His Majesty's Government in procuring supplies and obtaining services in this country;

(c) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, whether a different method of payment by the Reserve Bank of India for the gold sold by His Majesty's Government was effected; and

(d) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, how the price of gold was actually paid, whether in dollars or other hard currency?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a), (c) and (d). The rupee proceeds of the gold sales accrued to His Majesty's Government and were utilised by them towards meeting their war expenditure in India.

(b) Yes.

PAYMENT OF FAMILY ALLOTMENTS IN RESPECT OF MISSING INDIAN ARMY PERSONNEL

327. *Diwan Ohaman Lal: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether it is a fact that in the case of Indian Army personnel, who have been reported missing but whose deaths have not yet been confirmed, payments of family allotments in respect of them were stopped after the expiry of a certain period, and the only payments to their families have been the pensions that are awardable on confirmation of deaths?

(b) Is it a fact that in the case of British Army personnel, the policy of His Majesty's Government is to continue the payment of family allotments?

(c) What is the justification for (i) the discontinuation of family allotment, and (ii) the payment of death pensions without the confirmation of the death in case of soldiers who had staked their lives for the Government?

(d) Will he please also state the position in respect of the British Services personnel serving with the Indian Army in such cases?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (c). According to the normal rules, a missing man's family is paid family allotment for a period of seven months after intimation has been received that the man is missing. This is followed by a special family allowance for two months. Thereafter the family is given a pension.

These rules assume that enemy powers will, in compliance with the Prisoners of War Convention, furnish promptly names of prisoners of war taken by them. Accordingly if any one is not notified as a prisoner of war within 9 months the presumption of death would normally be justifiable.

Owing to the failure of the Japanese Government to furnish names of case of Indian personnel missing in the Far East. Family allotments were prisoners of war, the Government of India suspended the normal rules in the

continued to families of such personnel for periods beyond those authorised by the rules. These periods were extended from time to time and under existing orders family allotments will continue to be paid to such families up to and for the 31st May 1946. By that date the Government of India hope that the fate of those still unaccounted for will be definitely known.

(b) and (d). The reply to (b) is the negative. According to the normal rules a missing British soldier's family is paid family allowance of family allotment for twenty two weeks. This period was extended, however, in the case of British soldiers missing in the Far East for the same reason which justified the continuance of family allotment in the case of Indian soldiers. This family allowance was withdrawn, with effect from the 1st August 1945, in the case of soldiers missing from the 1st November 1942, and with effect from the 1st February 1946, in the case of soldiers missing after the 31st October 1944. This applies also to British service personnel seconded to the Indian Army.

SCALES OF PENSIONS TO FAMILIES OF INDIAN OTHER RANKS

328. *Diwan Chaman Lal: Will the War Secretary please lay on the table of the House a detailed statement about the scale of pensions admissible to the families of the Indian Other Ranks of the Indian Army in case of their death occurring while on field service?

Mr. P. Mason: I lay a statement on the table of the House.

Statement

Current rates of I. O. R.'s family pension, children allowance and death gratuity are as follows :

- (i) Family pension—Rs. 16 p. m.
- (ii) Children allowance Rs. 4 p. m. per child. Payable to ALL family pensioners whether death occurred before or after 3 September 1939.
- (iii) Death gratuity (in one lump sum.

(a) If death is due to enemy action	Rs. 100
(b) If death is due to a disease or accident while serving overseas, or in a hospital in India on return from overseas as an invalid. ...	Rs. 50
(c) If death occurs in circumstances other than those in (a) and (b) above.	Nil.

The scales of family pension and children allowance are the same whether an individual's death occurs in a field or peace area.

INCOME-TAX FROM 'HINDU UNDIVIDED FAMILY' ASSESSEES

329. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state:

- (a) the amount of income-tax realised from the class 'Hindu Undivided family' giving figures for each Province, separately;
- (b) the number of 'Hindu undivided family' assesseees giving figures for each Province, separately;
- (c) what number of persons constitute such Hindu undivided family Assesseees on a rough average;
- (d) what difference in the amount of tax, will result if the persons constituting Hindu Undivided family were assessed as individuals; and
- (e) the compensatory advantages if any, to the member of the Hindu undivided families for their being taxed as such members instead of as individuals?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) and (b): I lay on the Table a statement giving the information required.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) It is not possible to give any figure. It would depend on the composition of the various Hindu Undivided Families and the share of the individuals in the income of the Hindu Undivided Family and the separate income if any that the members may have—

(e) Any sum received by an assessee as a member of a Hindu Undivided Family where such sum has been paid out of the income of the family is exempt from tax and is not taken into account in computing the total income of the assessee member.

Statement showing number of Hindu Undivided Family assesses and amount of income-tax realised in 1944-45

Province	Amount of Income-tax realised from the class 'Hindu Undivided Family' in the year 1944-45	Number of 'Hindu Undivided Family' assesses in the year 1944-45
	Rs.	
Madras	98,34,708	12,791
Bombay	91,77,239	11,794
Bengal	40,65,672	4,736
U. P.	94,72,123	12,593
Punjab	89,19,155	12,833
C. P. & Berar	48,11,316	5,114
Bihar	53,31,797	7,562
Orissa	8,42,648	1,199
Assam	10,27,165	1,121
N.-W. F. P.	8,62,647	1,153
Delhi	18,38,574	1,417
Baluchistan	4,99,215	699
Sind	9,77,608	2,089
Coorg	5,360	17
Bangalore	75,899	54
All India	5,77,41,126	75,172

DISRUPTION OF HINDU UNDIVIDED FAMILIES DUE TO INCOME-TAX ACT

330. *Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that partition in, and disruptions of the Hindu undivided families are caused and accelerated as a result of the provisions of the Income-Tax Act and the classification of Hindu undivided family as a unit of assessment?

(b) In how many cases, during the last ten years, the members of the Hindu undivided families claimed disruption and partition before the Income-Tax officers and the plea was disputed, allowed or disallowed?

Mr. B. O. A. Cook: (a) and (b). I am afraid I have no information.

HINDU UNDIVIDED FAMILY ASSESSEES TO SUPER-TAX AND EXCESS PROFITS TAX

331. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state:

(a) the number of Hindu undivided family Assessee assessed to Super Tax during the last six years;

(b) the number of Hindu Undivided family Assesseees assessed to both Super Tax and Excess Profits Tax during the last six years; and

(c) the number of Hindu Undivided Assesseees assessed to income-tax below the income of Two, Four, Six, Eight and Ten thousand rupees, separately, during the last three years?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) and (c). I lay on the Table a statement giving the information required. Of the five categories of incomes mentioned in part (c) information in respect of incomes below rupees Four, Six and Eight thousand is not available from our statistics which adopt slightly different grades of income. Information in respect of incomes below Rs. 3,500, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 7,500 has therefore been given in the statement.

(b) The information asked for is not available and cannot be compiled without an expenditure of time and labour which will not be commensurate with the result likely to be achieved.

Statement

(a) Number of Hindu undivided family assesseees assessed to super-tax :—

Assessment year	Number
1939-40	851
1940-41	1,334
1941-42	1,820
1942-43	2,349
1943-44	4,321
1944-45	4,705

(c) Number of Hindu undivided family assesseees assessed to income-tax below the incomes of:—

Assessment	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Year	2,000	3,500	5,000	7,500	10,000
1942-43	12,113	34,573	44,960	53,494	57,813
1943-44	17,881	40,555	52,848	63,747	69,830
1944-45	3,155	26,466	38,861	51,004	57,710

INCREASE OF EUROPEAN SECRETARIES AND UNDER SECRETARIES IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS

332. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state the number of European Secretaries and Under-Secretaries in the various Departments of the Government of India and what has been the increase in their number since April, 1939?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Of the 17 Secretaryships now in existence 18 are held by British Officers. Two of the 18 are on deputation out of India and Indian officers are acting for them.

In April 1939 5 out of 8 Secretaryships were held by British officers.

As regards Under Secretaries 11 out of 48 are British at the present time. Early in 1939, of the 20 I.C.S. officers holding Under Secretaryships 18 were British and 7 Indians.

ACTION *re* RELEASE OF DETENUS SINCE PASSING OF ADJOURNMENT MOTION

333. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken regarding the release of detenues since the passing of the Adjournment Motion on the subject by the Assembly on the 23rd January, 1946.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Mr. Krishna Nair has since been released. The question of the release of the remaining three persons detained under orders of the Central Government is still under consideration.

ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION PASSED RE RECRUITMENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIAN CIVIL AND POLICE SERVICES

334. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken on the adjournment motion passed by the Assembly on the 31st January, 1946 regarding the recruitment of Europeans to the I.C.S. and I.P.S.?

(b) Will he also state the total number of vacancies, so far, reserved for 'War Service' candidates, as well as the number of persons so recruited?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answers given on the 12th February 1946, to Mr. Manu Subedar's short notice question, and to Sardar Mangal Singh's question No. 224(b), on the above subject.

ACCUMULATION OF ADDITIONAL STERLING SECURITIES

335. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the accumulation of additional sterling securities obtained in return for India's sales of commodities and services to the British Government since the end of War;

(b) the most important commodities and services which are being supplied by India to the British Government;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the protest made by a number of Indian economists published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 4th February against these sales and accumulation of sterling securities; and

(d) when Government propose to stop these sales against sterling securities and the issue of further rupee currency?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) The total increase in the sterling holdings of the Reserve Bank from the 17th August 1945, to the 1st February 1946, was Rs. 188½ crores. This sum does not, however, necessarily represent the value of goods and services rendered to His Majesty's Government since V. J. Day. A rough estimate of the amount of recoverable war expenditure since that day is Rs. 143 crores, of which over one third represents the emoluments of troops.

(b) Apart from the services of troops, mainly various stores required for the maintenance of the armed forces.

(c) I have seen the manifesto referred to.

(d) As stated in my answer to Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 74, on the 7th February, 1946, the expenditure incurred in India on behalf of His Majesty's Government is being greatly curtailed. The question of the method of financing further expenditure recoverable from H. M. G. is under consideration.

CALCULATION ON AVERAGE EXPENDITURE

336 *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if any calculation has been made regarding the average expenditure on the answer of a question in the Legislative Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I cannot do better than refer my Honourable friend to the answer given by one of my predecessors to a somewhat similar question put in 1936. The answer reads as follows:

"I have seen various estimates ranging from Rs. 75 to Rs. 200 but none of these was an official calculation and I do not think that it is worth while trying to make an official estimate. I am, however, clear that it would conduce to economy as well as to comfort if Honourable Members could find it possible to restrict their curiosity to matters of real public interest."

As regards this particular question, I found the answer by working overtime. The only expenditure involved, therefore, was the cost of the paper and the wear and tear on the typewriter.

NAMES OF I.N.A. MEN HANGED

337. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to the reply to part (c) of starred question No. 41, dated the 7th February, 1946 will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the nine I.N.A. men who were hanged;
- (b) their history;
- (c) the charges against them;
- (d) the convictions and judgment given by the Court Martial;
- (e) what was done to their bodies;
- (f) whether they were provided with any facilities for defence; if so, what; and

(g) whether their relatives were informed about the trials, and whether they were given opportunities to interview them before they were hanged?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (c), (d) and (f). I lay a statement on the table.

(b) *Sepoys Chatter Singh and Nazir Singh* when fighting for the enemy, were members of a party which was responsible for capturing five of our soldiers and handing them over to the Japanese. Both were later captured while bearing arms against us.

Hav. Durga Mal was captured when bearing arms against our forces.

Sepoy L/N. Hazara Singh when captured was carrying subversive Japanese literature and even after capture continued to try to suborn our troops.

Fitter Sardar Singh took part in an enemy raid on one of our camps and later infiltrated to our lines with subversive intent where he was arrested after suspicion had been aroused as to his identity.

Jem. Keshri Chand Sharma and Jem. Dalbahadur Thapar were captured when leading an armed patrol against our forces.

Naik Nagindar Singh deserted while his battalion was fighting a rear-guard action and rejoined the battalion later only to desert a second time, taking two others with him to the Japanese. Was finally arrested when attempting to infiltrate with a large sum of Japanese-made Indian currency. Was given the benefit of the doubt on the charge of waging war.

L/N. Charan Singh deserted to the enemy while his battalion was fighting a rear-guard action. Concealed his identity when arrested later during an attempt to infiltrate to our lines.

(e) The normal procedure is that the body of a judicially executed person is disposed of by the authorities of the jail where the execution takes place according to the religious rights of the executed person. If however, the relatives of an executed person wish to remove the body for disposal, permission to do so is normally granted. There is no reason to believe that any other procedure was followed in these cases.

(g) As regards the first part, the accused, while under trial, were allowed to write to their relatives. As regards the second part, the relatives were permitted to visit them before the execution, if they so desired. It is not known how many of them took this opportunity.

Serial No.	No., Rank Name and Unit of accused, and Act to which subject	Form of Tribunal, Place and dates of trial	Charges on which arraigned	Charges on which convicted.	Sentence as confirmed	Defending Officer	Place and date of execution
1	18662 Sepoy Chatkar Singh, 5/8 Punjab Regt. (Subject to the IAA).	General Summary Court Martial Delhi 14-6-44.	Waging war against the King.	Waging war against the King.	Death changed.	Lt. L. C. Green SEA TIC (Solicitor).	Delhi. 29-7-44.
2	9896 Sepoy Nazir Singh, 8 Burma Rifles (Subject to the BAA).	General Summary Court Martial Delhi 15-6-44.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
3	6775 Hav. Durga Mal, 2/1 Gurkha Rifles (Subject to the IAA).	General Summary Court Martial Delhi 5-7-44.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Capt. E. W. Seir RIASC (Solicitor).	Delhi. 25-8-44.
4	10648 Sepoy (P/L) Nk) Hazara Singh, 5/2 Punjab Regt. (Subject to the IAA).	General Summary Court Martial Delhi 25-8-44.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Lt. S. A. Hossain, R.I.A.S.C., "B" M.T. Trg. Group.	Delhi. 25-10-44.
5	MT 503961 Fitter Singh (Class II) Sardar Singh IAOC, att. 4/7 Gurkha Rifles (Subject to the IAA).	General Summary Court Martial Calcutta. 6-10-44.	Waging war against the King. (2 counts).	Waging war against the King. (2 counts).	Do.	Capt. M. S. Haqqani IAOC 236 I. A. O. D. Pleader with audience in Sessions Court.	Calcutta. 23-3-45.

Serial No.	No., Rank, Name and Unit of accused, and Act to which subject	Form of Tribunal Place and dates of trial.	Charges on which arraigned	Charges on which convicted	Sentence as confirmed	Defending Officer	Place and date of execution
6	28896 I. C. Jem. Keshri Sharma, RIASC (Subject to the IAA).	General Court Martial Delhi 12 & 13-12-44	Waging war against the King.	Waging war against the King.	by being changed,	Capt. H. B. C. Horrell, Bar-at-Law.	Delhi. 3-5-45.
7	6120 Jem. Dalbaha-dur Thapa, 2/1st Gurkha Rifles (Subject to the IAA).	General Court Martial Delhi. 12-2-45.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Lt. Idris Ahmad, I.A.O.C., Pleader.	Do.
8	8771 Naik Nagindar Singh, 8th (F. F.) Bn., Burma Rifles, att. Details Indian Military Prison. (Subject to the BAA).	Summary Court Martial Multan. 3-7-43.	1. Desertion. 2. Desertion. 3. Waging war against the King.	1. Desertion 2. Desertion.	Do.	Major P. H. M. Galbraith, 1st Burma Regt.	Multan. 28-8-43.
9	10376 L/Nk. Charan Singh, 8 Burma Rifles (Subject to the BAA).	Summary Court Martial Multan. 6-7-43.	1. Desertion. 2. Waging war against the King.	1. Desertion 2. Waging war against the King.	Do.	Do.	Do.

AMNESTY TO CIVILIAN I. N. A. MEN

338. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to the answer of the War Secretary to question No. 42, dated the 7th February, 1946, will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the civilians who had joined the I.N.A. were treated in the same way as the Burmans to whom general amnesty was extended; if not, why not; and

(b) whether Government propose to extend amnesty to all the civilians who had joined the I.N.A., in view of the end of the war and the public opinion in India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). As the War Secretary pointed out, the Burmans joined the Allies and fought against the Japanese in the closing stage of the campaign.

It is however unlikely that any civilian *ex-member* of the I.N.A. will be prosecuted in India as so far none is known to have been guilty of atrocities.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RESTRICTIONS ON CAPITAL ISSUES

36. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving information regarding existing restrictions on the capital issues?

(b) How long are these restrictions to remain in force?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) The restrictions are embodied in Defence of India Rule 94A read with the Exemption Order, dated 5th December, 1945. Both of these being statutory orders have been published in the *Gazette of India* and are therefore available in the Library of the House.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

PUBLICATIONS BANNED UNDER SEA CUSTOMS ACT

37. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the names of the books and other publications which still remain banned under Section 19 of the Sea Customs Act?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am having the information collected and will furnish it to the Honourable Member when it is complete.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 528, asked by Prof. N. G. Ranga, on the 28th February, 1945.

LOWER PRICES OF PADDY AND RICE IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

(a) The policy of Government is to see that all the parties concerned, namely producers, consumers, millers and traders get a fair deal.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) The difference between the village-site price of paddy and the *ex-mill* price of corresponding quantity of rice comes to about Rs. 2 per bag of two maunds of rice second sort and has been fixed with due regard to the fair out-turn of rice obtained by milling tests and allowing for transport charges, milling charges cost of gunny, bagging, packing, etc., brokerage and loading and sales tax.

(d) As the cultivator is assured of a market for his produce at a fair price, the fixation of a minimum price is not considered necessary. As regards fixation of the ceiling price of paddy are Rs. 12, the ceiling price already fixed by the Collector for 2nd sort paddy in Kistna district for local consumption is Rs. 11-12-8 per bag of 166 lbs. at the market centre and is for the whole year. Prices were fixed only recently with due regard to increase in the cost of cultivation and other relevant factors, and no further increase is contemplated at present. The option to deliver rice or paddy is given to the ryot, subject to the discretion of the Grain Purchase Officer, as it was observed that unrestricted option retarded procurement considerably.

information promised in reply to starred question No. 1064, asked by Prof. N. G. Ranga, on the 16th March, 1945.

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

(a) No. No license is required for the purchase of groundnuts, oil and jaggery. Dealers in oil cakes have to take out licenses from the Director of Agriculture, Madras, under the **Madras Manure Dealers Licensing Order, 1943**. A large number of such licenses have been granted to manure dealers in various districts.

(b) and (c). Prices of groundnuts and oil have not been fixed for oil cakes ceiling prices have been fixed with reference to the ruling prices of groundnuts and oil in consultation with the trade. Ceiling prices for jaggery exported outside the province are also fixed according to seasonal conditions and are based on the current cost of production, handling charges, etc.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1248, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on 21st March 1945.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN NON-TRAINED M.A.S. IN DELHI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

(a) No.

(b) Yes. 25 untrained M.As. have been employed in the Higher Secondary Schools. Of these, twelve possess the requisite qualifications prescribed by the Board and are employed in the following schools :

(1) M. B. Higher Secondary School, New Delhi	2
(2) Indraprastha Girls Higher Secondary School, Delhi	1
(3) Ramjas Higher Secondary School, No. 2, New Delhi	1
(4) Union Academy, New Delhi	1
(5) Birla Higher Secondary School, Delhi	1
(6) Ramjas Higher Secondary School, No. 3, Delhi	1
(7) Anglo-Arabie Girls Higher Secondary School, Delhi	1
(8) D. A. V. Higher Secondary School, Delhi	2
(9) Commercial Higher Secondary School, Delhi	1
(10) Ramjas Higher Secondary School, No. 1, Delhi	1
	<hr/>
	12
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Four who were old teachers have been granted exemptions, and nine are unqualified but are employed temporarily in the following institutions till qualified teachers become available :

(1) Indraprastha Hindu Girls Higher Secondary School, Delhi	1
(2) Lady Irwin Higher Secondary School, Simla	1
(3) St. Thomas Higher Secondary School, New Delhi	2
(4) Anglo-Arabie Higher Secondary School, Daryaganj, Delhi	1
(5) Arya Girls Higher Secondary School, New Delhi	1
(6) V. S. Jat Higher Secondary School, Kheragarhi, Delhi	1
(7) Commercial Higher Secondary School, Delhi	2

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1378, asked by Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, on the 27th March, 1945

BETEL-NUT PALM CULTIVATION IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS

	(a) Area under betelnut palm Acres	(b) Estimated annual yield Lbs. (in 000s)	(c) Revenue collected in 1944-45 Rs. (in 000s)
<i>Madras Districts</i>			
(i) S. Kanars	12,038	24,796	17,07
(ii) Malabar	61,535	23,744	14,37
(iii) Coimbatore	1,600	1,120	1,39
(iv) Nilgiris	22	12	0.5
<i>Bombay Districts</i>			
(i) N. Kanara	16,900	13,759	15,92
(ii) Ratnagiri [.	1,970	799	74
<i>Bengal Districts</i>			
(i) Noakhali	32,400	27,698	9,00
(ii) Chittagong	350	582	6
(iii) Bahkharganj	1,53,790	60,955	46,60
(iv) Khulna	7,590	6,310	5,36
(v) Jessore	68	95	3
(vi) Midnapur	(Non-growing area)		
<i>Assam</i>			
Sylhet	1,570	2,462	1,39
Coorg Province	240	232	1

(d) and (e). Attention is invited to the reply to part (a) of question No. 885.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 1470 (a) and 1471 (a) to (d), asked by Shrimati K. Radhabai Subbarayan, on the 29th March, 1945.

LIQUOR SHOPS IN VICINITY OF RAILWAY COAL MINES

No. 1470.—(a) The liquor shops in the vicinity of Railway Coal Mines are open throughout the year from 12 noon to 6 P.M. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and from 12 noon to 8 P.M. on the remaining days.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR RAILWAY COAL MINERS CHILDREN

No. 1471.—(a) There are 4 primary schools for children of miners working in Railway-owned Coal Mines, i.e., in Hazaribagh Bakaro Coal fields. Their names and number of pupils are noted below :

Serial No.	Name of School	Number of pupils		Total
		Boys	Girls	
1	Dhori U. P. School	115	10	125
2	Bermo Hindi L. P. School	85	7	92
3	Bermo Urdu L. P. School	45	4	49
	Kargali L. P. School	40	20	60
		285	41	326

(b) In 1939 there was only one School, namely Kargali, L.P. School with 39 pupils. Thus there is an increase of 3 schools and 287 pupils.

(c) All the four schools are co-educational. There is no woman teacher in any of these schools.

(d) Mid-day meal is not provided in these schools. The Hazaribagh Mines Board which manages these schools has not made any provision for this purpose.

Information promised in reply to parts (b), (c) and (d) of question No. 1479, asked by Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty, on the 29th March, 1945.

RICE ROTTING IN GOVERNMENT GODOWN IN MANIKGANJ.

(b) and (c). The total quantity which deteriorated and become unfit for human consumption at Manikganj was 6,000 maunds. It was received in poor condition during the latter half of 1943 and the early part of 1944 and formed part of an emergency shipment. No particular official was responsible for this deterioration.

(d) Deterioration of foodgrains was mainly due to lack of proper storage accommodation. This is being rectified by the construction of new storage of approved scientific design and storage capacity for 348,000 tons has already been completed. This combined with better technical staff now completing training, new system of accounting now being put into force, and a highly qualified Directorate of Inspection, which is already working, is expected to minimise deterioration of foodgrains in future.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1591, asked by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, on the 4th April, 1945

PUBLIC UTILITY CONCERNS HELD BY NON-INDIAN INTERESTS

(a) 56 public utilities concerns are held by British and other non-Indian interests.

(b) Yes, in respect of six concerns. Besides a tentative decision to acquire one has been reached and cases of two are under consideration.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO REPATRIATE INDIAN PRISONERS UNDERGOING TRIAL IN MALAYA.

Mr. President: I have received notice of a motion of adjournment from

12 noon **Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal**, who wants to discuss the policy of Government in refusing to have repatriated into India for trial Indian prisoners in Malaya. From the answers given to certain supplementary questions the other day by the Secretary to the Commonwealth Relations Department, I understood that these prisoners are prisoners of a foreign Government and are being tried in a foreign land for offences committed against foreign laws. If that is so, under what law can they be repatriated into British India for trial? As to facts, we must know whether the Malayan Government is really a foreign Government or whether it is a subsidiary part of the Government of India.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I should like in the first place to invite your attention to the answer itself.

Mr. President: I can see that the wording of the answer is somewhat loose; but irrespective of that answer, I should like to know from Government whether the Malayan Government is a subordinate Government of the Government of India or is an independent Government. It may be a military or other administration, but is it subordinate to the Government of India?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Department): Sir, it is quite independent of the Government of India, just like the Government of Ceylon or the Government of Burma, and there is no sort of subordination of the Malayan Government to the Government of India.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, so far as that matter is concerned in the first place the British military administration in Malaya is part of the South East Asia Command, and the Government of India are represented there as will appear from the answer itself. In the second place, so far as the legal position is concerned, apart from the question of exchange of prisoners on the grounds of diplomatic necessity, there are clear provisions in the Criminal

Procedure Code and in the Indian Penal Code which provide that an Indian subject wherever he may have committed an offence is subject to the legal administration of this country. In replying to my question the other day, the Secretary to the Department did not say that there was any legal difficulty or impossibility, but he made it clear that it was not the policy of this Government to ask for repatriation. Section 4 of the Indian Penal Code and section 188 of the Criminal Procedure Code make it clear that an Indian wherever he is, is subject to the statutory provisions of this country. Therefore the position is clear and an Indian who is a prisoner in Malaya could be tried by them at Malaya and in India. So the question that I want to raise today on the basis of the answer given the other day by the Secretary to the Commonwealth Relations Department is as to the steps taken by this Government, if at all, with regard to the repatriation of these prisoners here for trial. The answer of Government was not that there was any legal difficulty or disability but that it was not their policy to ask for repatriation; and that is just what I want to discuss. If they had said that they had tried and failed because of some legal difficulty, the position would be different; but they say that they have not tried because it is not their policy. So I seek to raise this issue on the ground of policy only.

Mr. President: Looking to the answer as a whole and without taking any portion of the answer out of the context, it appears to me to make no difference whether the word used was 'policy' or their legal ability or inability. The proposition of law which the Honourable Member is trying to make out is, to my mind, too wide. Supposing an Indian commits a murder in Paris and the French Government prosecute him for it, will he be triable in India by the British Indian courts? If the trial is taking place in France, will it be competent to the Government of India—apart from the question of propriety or policy—to insist on the repatriation of that person to be tried here for the murder committed in France?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: The position is clear that, so far as the law is concerned, he is triable here; but whether Government will ask for the trial here is a matter for Government to decide.

Mr. President: To me the matter is clear. I am unable to agree with the legal proposition of the Honourable Member and the Motion is not in order.

BURNING OF PLACES OF WORSHIP AND INSULTING OF WOMEN DURING RECENT CALCUTTA DISTURBANCES

Mr. President: The next motion of adjournment stands in the name of Mr. Anthony who wants to discuss the failure of Government to take timely and sufficiently stern measures to protect the public in the recent Calcutta disturbances, with the result that women were insulted and places of worship burned.

There is hardly anything that can be said in favour of this motion on the point of admissibility.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, this *goondaism* which has resulted in women being insulted and places of worship burnt has produced a feeling of bitterness throughout India and not in Calcutta only. This is not the first time it has happened; it is the second occasion in a few weeks. And I do not think that the old position is tenable that this is a matter which falls solely within the purview of the responsibility of the provincial Government, in view of the Defence of India Rules and also in view of the emergency provisions of section 126-A of the Government of India Act which runs thus:

"Where a proclamation of emergency is in operation whereby the Governor General has declared that the security of India is threatened by war—

(a) the Executive Authority of the Federation shall extend to the giving of directions to a province as to the manner in which the executive authority thereof is to be exercised, etc. . . ."

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony]

And I say that it is very much the responsibility of the Central Government in view of the fact that this sort of thing has happened before. The Bengal Government have pleaded that the *goondas* have apparently got the upper hand. They should have taken the sternest measures at the earliest opportunity. I think no political party will for a moment plead that this *goondaism* is part of their political programme or philosophy. I know the military were called out. If necessary instead of 53 there should have been 553 casualties, in order to wipe out the *goonda* element.

Mr. President: I am afraid I am unable to hold the Government of India responsible for this. It is a wide extension but in each case, as I said, the matter will have to be looked into on the merits of the case. I do not propose to give my consent to this motion.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO IMPERIAL COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ITS GOVERNING BODY

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Monday, the 11th February, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and its Governing Body, three nominations were received. Subsequently one member withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Sri V. Gangaraju and Mr. Muhammad Nauman to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Monday, the 11th February, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Information and Broadcasting, twelve nominations were received. Subsequently two members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee for the unexpired portion of the current financial year, 1945-46 and the financial year 1946-47: (1) Mr. C. P. Lawson, (2) Mr. N. Narayana-murthi, (3) Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal, (4) Khan Abdul Ghani Khan, (5) Mr. M. R. Masani, (6) Mr. Ramayan Prasad, (7) Chaudhry Sri Chand, (8) Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, (9) Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, and (10) Khan Bahadur Raja Mohammad Amir Ahmad.

ROAD-RAIL CO-ORDINATION SCHEME

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I present the report of the Committee to examine the progress made in carrying out the principles of the Road-Rail Co-ordination Scheme.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY APPOINTED TO EXAMINE THE PROGRESS MADE IN CARRYING OUT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ROAD-RAIL CO-ORDINATION SCHEME.

Preliminary.—(1) The Committee was appointed in pursuance of a Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 29th January, 1946 on the motion of the Hon'ble Member for War Transport and Railways as follows:—

"That this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Hon'ble the President may direct, seven members to serve on a Committee to examine the progress made in carrying out the principles of the Road-Rail Co-ordination Scheme approved by this House on April, 12, 1945, and to report to the House within 14 days."

(2) The Hon'ble the President appointed February the 1st for receipt of nominations to the Committee and February the 4th for the election, if necessary. There being only

seven nominations the Hon'ble the President announced on February the 1st that the Committee had been constituted as follows :—

The Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall.
Mr. Bhagirathi Mahapatra.
Shri Mohan Lal Saksena.
Sawab Siddique Ali Khan.
Mr. H. G. Stokes.
Mr. P. B. Gole.
Sir Mohd. Yamin Khan.

(3) The Committee was therefore required to report on or before the 15th of February, but on the 14th of February received the permission of the House to report by the 18th. Meetings were held on the 5th, 7th, 8th, 12th, 13th and 14th of February.

2. The Committee is agreed that the White Paper issued by Government and laid on the table of the House on January 21st, 1946 fairly covers the agreement reached in the Assembly on April 12th, 1945, respecting the principles of road-rail co-ordination by the formation of joint (road-rail) or tripartite (road-rail-Provincial Government) companies.

3. The majority of the Committee feel that in most of the Provinces there has neither been consultations nor negotiations in pursuance of the aforesaid agreement.

4. The majority of the Committee, therefore, recommend that in view of the impending changes in the Provincial Governments it is inadvisable for railways to make any investment for the present and the railway participation in the scheme therefore be postponed.

5. The majority of the Committee are further of the opinion that Ordinance XXXI of 1945 should be amended so as to restore the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 in relation to ordinary permits for stage and contract carriages, and public and private carriers, but that certain emergency provisions may remain, in so far as they are necessary in respect of emergent control of transport for special purposes such as the transport of food.

It is also of the opinion that any notification issued under the Ordinance for cancellation of such permits should be made inoperative and the permits already cancelled under the Ordinance should be restored.

6. During the discussions of the Committee it transpired that certain commitments had already been made in C. P. in companies with Managing Agents. The majority of the Committee are of the opinion that this was in contravention of the aforesaid agreement and is irregular.

E. C. BENTHALL.*
MOHAN LAL SAKSENA.
MOHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN.
BHAGIRATHI MAHAPATRA.
SIDDIQUE ALI KHAN.
H. G. STOKES.*
P. B. GOLE.

The 18th February, 1946.

NOTE OF DISSENT BY THE HON'BLE SIR EDWARD BENTHAL

I regret that I am unable to agree with the majority of the Committee in the following matters :—

Para. 3.—I consider that the Governments of Provinces in which matters have reached a stage of negotiation, have made a genuine attempt to carry out the terms of the White Paper according to local circumstances and in the interest of the travelling public.

Para. 4.—In my opinion, in spite of the impending political changes, action should not be postponed since the interests of the travelling public demand additional and better bus services as soon as possible, new vehicles are, and are likely to become, available in the near future and there is no disagreement on the general policy of road-rail co-ordination. My information is that in several areas a substantial body of operators or all operators concerned have approved the formation and structure of the companies, the terms of acquisition of their vehicles by the companies and the selection of individual promoters or managing directors. I recognise, however, that in certain other areas there is ground for a difference of opinion regarding the measure of consultation and agreement with operators hitherto and in my opinion the correct course in the present circumstances would be to proceed with the formation of companies and the introduction of services in areas where there is substantial agreement subject, if the House wishes, to scrutiny by a Committee of the House in respect of the fulfilment of the terms of the White Paper.

Para. 5.—I am prepared to concur in the first part of this recommendation but not in the second part.

*Subject to a Minute of dissent.

Para. 6.—I do not consider that there was any contravention of my undertaking or any irregularity in authorising the railway to take up the agreed percentage of the increase in the capital of the Company concerned which was made in order to give greater participation to other existing operators.

E. C. BENTHALL.

The 16th February, 1946.

NOTE OF DISSENT BY MR. H. G. STOKES

Para. 3.—I am unable to agree with the majority of the Committee that in most Provinces there has never been consultation nor negotiation. I feel that adequate consultation has been carried out save in a few cases.

Para. 4.—I feel that some time limit to postponement is desirable and I suggest that it be up to May 31st.

Para. 5.—I do not consider that action already taken under the Ordinance should now be invalidated.

Para. 6.—I am not satisfied that the action of Government was in contravention of the agreement or that there has been any irregularity, financially or otherwise.

H. G. STOKES.

The 14th February, 1946.

RAILWAY BUDGET FOR 1946-47

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, the Railway Budget for 1946-47, which I have the honour to present today, is at one and the same time a Victory Budget and the precursor of a series of more difficult Post-War Budgets. There is no need for me to recount once again the extent of the contribution of the railwaymen towards the victory which has placed India in a position to develop her economic and political life in freedom. The strain has at times been great but they have been equal to it. Though conditions particularly for passenger traffic have been difficult, all military requirements were successfully met, the people's food has been moved, industry has been maintained at a high level of productivity and, generally speaking, the railways have delivered the goods. The country can, I think, be satisfied that its greatest industrial asset has stood the test of war, but henceforward we must turn to a critical examination of this asset and consider how our railway finances stand and how best the resources in equipment and material can be adapted to meet the changing needs of post-war India.

Goods Traffic

2. With the termination of the war the distribution of traffic has, of course, changed. The reoccupation of Burma relieved the pressure on the metre gauge connection to the North Eastern frontier which so long was a cause of anxiety, with the result that goods traffic is now moving fairly freely on the whole of the Northern metre gauge system, and this should continue. The Southern metre gauge system remains relatively active, but with the reinforcement of rolling stock and the easing of military demands goods traffic congestion will be gradually eliminated. On the broad gauge, railways have loaded in the first nine months of the current financial year 6.24 per cent. more wagons and lifted 4.91 per cent. more tons of goods than in the corresponding period of the preceding year and, in spite of a decrease in military traffic, a high rate of activity continues. The transport of increased outputs of coal, particularly in the up-country direction, has presented difficulties which have recently been accentuated by severe outbreaks of epidemic dropsy and by mechanical trouble with some of the over-age engines on the East Indian Railway. Steps have been taken to overcome these difficulties and to move more coal by sea and it is accordingly hoped, as the new rolling stock comes into full operation, to carry all the goods offering and to build up stocks of coal in 1946 at the consumers' end. The railways should have the capacity to do so provided nothing intervenes to restrict its use, but as the stringency is likely to remain for some months to come, it will be necessary for the time being to maintain in operation, in decreasing degree, a system of priority movement control.

Passenger Traffic

3. Passenger traffic has continued at a very high level. The latest statistics show that, apart from the large number of military personnel moved in specials, the Class I Railways have carried an average of 85 million passengers every month during the current year. This means an increase of nine million passengers per month over 1944-45 and 20 millions over the monthly average in the year 1943-44. The passenger traffic handled in scheduled trains in terms of passenger miles—a more comprehensive unit of measurement—had already doubled last year in comparison with the pre-war level but during the current year it is nearly two and a quarter times as much. With the reduction of military demand, it has been possible to restore a certain number of train services but, as the House knows, conditions of travel are still very far from satisfactory. There are no fewer than 1,366 broad gauge and 416 metre gauge coaches still with the military and until we get these back or get new stock, we shall be unable to restore the services to a satisfactory level and must therefore continue to ask the public to be patient over our difficulties for a little longer. The condition of the coaching stock too has deteriorated during the war through intensive use and though the supply of fittings is likely to become progressively easier, it is not always possible to improve the condition of carriages quickly by withdrawing stock for repair without depleting services further, with still more serious inconvenience to the public. The improvement of the coaching stock position is one of the major tasks of the railways in the next few years. The first step to improve the position is the recovery and reconversion to civilian use of the stock loaned to the military and the overhaul of existing stock, some of which may require to be largely rebuilt. In addition, the 216 broad gauge and 94 metre gauge underframes which are arriving from Australia, together with all spare underframes which can be collected from the railways, will be utilised for the early increase of lower class capacity. This programme will very fully occupy the shop and labour capacity of the railways for coachbuilding. The employment of outside engineering works for the fabrication of bodies for some of the underframes is under consideration; but this will not prejudice the employment of railway labour. As a long term project experiments are being made in lightweight "all-metal" stock, suitably insulated and, of course, of improved design. Sample orders have been placed in order to carry out the necessary tests.

The question of new designs for lower class passenger coaches has received intensive study and the opinions of Local Advisory Committees have been taken. Sample coaches are being constructed. The approved layouts contemplate transverse seating sectionalised to give greater privacy for both Inter and III class passengers. The seats will afford adequate knee room and provide a degree of seating comfort beyond anything offered to Inter and III class passengers in the past and an innovation is being introduced in that sleeping accommodation as such will be provided in these classes. The number of passengers per lavatory will be further reduced and some small compartments retained for women and for reservation. Water storage capacity will be increased and a water supply made available in both compartments and lavatories. Lighting will be improved and fans provided in Inter class compartments. Renovation of upper class carriages will of course be taken in hand and railways will proceed with development of air-conditioned stock, but the main effort will be concentrated upon the improvement of lower class travel. It will, however, of course be appreciated that the volume of work entailed in bringing the stock up to the general standard which the country demands is large and cannot be achieved overnight by waving a magic wand.

Engines and Wagons

4. The position regarding engines and wagons is more satisfactory than that of coaching stock. Of the 984 broad gauge engines on order to which I referred in my last year's budget speech 783 have been put into service, 29 have been

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shipped or already received in India and 172 remain to come forward. These should go a long way to secure the power position. Of the broad gauge wagons previously on order 3,410 from the U. S. A. were cancelled on the cessation of Lease Lend arrangements. Of the 17,934 wagons on order in India, we expect to have received 13,439 by March 31st and the balance next year. Tenders have been called for a further 4,100 wagons of Indian manufacture. We hope that we shall have received 6,000 of the 8,000 Canadian wagons and 3,800 of the 10,000 wagons on order from the United Kingdom by the end of the financial year and the balance soon after. When all these deliveries have been completed, the railways which commenced the war with some 7,279 broad and metre gauge engines and 198,805 broad and metre gauge wagons should have available 8,541 engines and 239,000 wagons. Among these, however, are 389 metre gauge engines and 11,000 metre gauge wagons owned by the War Department, but it is expected that the railways will take over a large proportion of these. Eleven per cent. of the total wagons have been in service for 40 years or have been recommended for premature replacement, but the Indian industry should be in a position to provide replacements and any further accretions necessary to meet developing trade. Of the engines, however, 29 per cent. have passed the normal age of 35 years and it may be necessary to order a certain number of passenger engines from overseas before the locomotive building works now in course of inauguration in India are in a position to meet the demand. The first boilers from Singhbhum are in an advanced stage of production and work is proceeding at Kanchrapara, although the heavy programme of engine rehabilitation in these works is resulting in slower progress than we could wish. On the whole, however, the stock of engines and wagons should be adequate for current purposes.

Staff

5. It is only natural that the large body of railway servants who have worked loyally and strenuously during the last few years in furtherance of the war effort should now view with apprehension the inevitable adjustments which must result from a return to peace-time conditions. Government is, of course, well aware of the widely felt fear that a reduction in railway activity and the absorption of ex-service men will result in the discharge of large numbers of temporary staff. Publicity has been given to a number of misleading figures which bear no relation to fact. It is true that a certain amount of purely war work undertaken by the Railways has ceased, together with a portion of the purely military traffic. This military traffic has however, so far largely been replaced by increased civilian traffic and although it is difficult to look far ahead, there seems every prospect during the coming year of a demand for rail transportation comparable to that of 1943-44. But apart from this, rehabilitation works and new projects will absorb large numbers of railway workers in alternative employment and are being put in hand as rapidly as the supplies of raw material and the need for preparatory work permit. A variety of other means have also been adopted to avoid retrenchment on a large scale. Overtime has been cut down; in some cases, reduced hours of work for certain types of staff have been introduced; greater facilities for leave resulting in the entertainment of more substitutes have been arranged; certain leave rules—as a long-term policy—have been liberalised, while some work normally carried out by contract is, where possible, being temporarily allotted to departmental staff. The Railway Board and Railway Administrations are exploiting all these methods to the fullest possible extent in order to avoid throwing large bodies of workers out of employment during the immediate post-war period. There is no reason to believe that their efforts will not meet with success, but while the railways are playing their part in creating work for the workers, their degree of activity is, of course, ultimately dependent upon the general state of economic activity. So far, some 8,000 surplus men have been absorbed in this way and

only 8,800 out of a total labour strength of over 850,000 have had to be discharged, many of whom were occupied on purely war work which has been closed down. The Railway Board have been in close touch with the All-India Railway-men's Federation in regard to this question although they have been unable to accept the claim that no railway servant should be discharged, a claim which it would be impossible for any Government department or any other business concern employing large bodies of men to accept. The Board will moreover continue to keep a close watch on these adjustments in the labour strength and will consult the Federation from time to time as heretofore.

Organised labour is also demanding the immediate revision of scales of pay. It must be realised that a wholesale revision in the very great variety of scales which exist on different railways is at the best of times an intricate matter requiring close investigation. The difficulties of such a revision at the present time are intensified by the uncertainty of future price levels. The Railway Board have, however, been working for some time on a suitable post-war pay structure with the idea that the actual scales could be determined without delay as soon as there is more certainty as to the level at which prices, rates and fares are likely to become stabilised. As was recently announced on the floor of the House, Government have decided to set up a Commission which will be predominantly non-official in character, to go into the whole question of the scales of pay for all their servants. In the meantime railway servants may rest assured that the present rates of relief which they are enjoying will not be reduced as long as there is no material reduction in the cost of living.

The question of medical facilities and educational assistance, the working of Staff Councils and the Staff Benefit Fund, the hours of employment of railway workers, housing, technical training and the method of handling establishment matters, all these with other questions relating to specific categories of staff, are under review. In short the Railway Board are giving the welfare of railway servants a prominent place in their post-war programme.

Post-War Plans

6. Government recognise the important part which railway rehabilitation and development can play in mitigating the shock of transition between war-time and peace-time conditions and in providing work for railway and other workers who would otherwise be in danger of unemployment. Transport services are indeed the foundation of activity in the heavy industries and the railways are losing no time in putting into operation the plans, which the House has discussed on previous occasions. The programme of construction of new railways and restoration of dismantled lines has been settled in consultation with Provincial Governments and surveys are proceeding on 3,000 miles of line. Work is being put in hand on such sections as require no further survey but the bulk of the work planned cannot commence until the next working season. A large programme for building new staff quarters of improved types is under way and in designing these types the wives of railway staff have been consulted. The Sargent Committee has just submitted an *ad interim* report on the development of tourist traffic. Each railway has submitted its five-year programme for rehabilitation and development. The total amount budgeted next year for new construction and open line rehabilitation works is 22 crores which should be a useful contribution to help counter the reduction in war expenditure. The Railway Board are also considering on a regional basis various schemes of developing electric traction, the establishment of a Research Branch, and plans to take advantage of and improve on the latest technical progress. Generally there is good reason to claim that the railways, in spite of their preoccupation with heavy war tasks, now find themselves comparatively well ahead in putting post-war plans into operation and I am confident that they will not be found wanting in meeting industrial demands for the development of the country.

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Road-Rail Co-ordination

7. The proposals for co-ordinating road and rail transport in accordance with the general terms on which the last Assembly approved the investment of Government railway finance in road transport companies, have made uneven progress. Road transport is, of course, a provincial subject and progress in each Province has therefore been governed by the policy of the Provincial Government concerned. Most Governments have formulated policies of developing their road transport on lines which permit the railways to participate. It has been possible, therefore, in some Provinces to negotiate freely agreed arrangements between the Provinces, the railways concerned, and the operators; in others, the natural desire of the operators to secure the best possible terms for themselves has resulted in prolonged discussions; other Provinces again have not yet fully determined their policies and in such cases little advance is to be recorded. Meanwhile the progress made by the Railway Board in carrying out the principles of the policy laid down by the House, has been the subject of examination by a special committee of this House whose report I have just presented this morning. A sum of 3.48 crores has been included in next year's budget for investment in road-rail companies. If this is agreed to, the test is still to come, for the success of the policy depends upon the ability of the operators who are charged with the management of these companies to perform their public duties. Private enterprise in the management of Government capital is very much on trial, but a continued study of the problem in the course of the negotiations which have taken place during the last year confirms the view that the course adopted is probably the best suited to the particular circumstances of India.

Accounts for 1944-45

8. Turning now to the accounts, the actual surplus for 1944-45 proved to be 49.89 crores, an improvement of 7.88 crores on the estimate due to an increase of 2.08 crores in gross traffic receipts and a saving of 5.22 crores in working expenses mainly due to a throw-forward to the following year. General revenues were credited with 32 crores of this surplus and the Railway Reserve with 17.89 crores. The net increase in the Railway Reserve was, however, only 14.98 crores as there was a withdrawal of 2.96 crores to meet arrears of depreciation in respect of rolling stock.

Revised Estimates for 1945-46

9. Against our budget estimates of Receipts, we expect a large increase in passenger earnings, those from upper class traffic being expected to show a much larger proportionate increase (35 per cent.) than those from III class (14 per cent.). Our goods traffic will not differ appreciably from our estimate but there will be a considerable fall in parcels traffic. Our present estimate of gross traffic receipts is now 225 crores.

On the expenditure side we expect an increase over the Budget of 9.26 crores in ordinary Working Expenses and 24 lakhs in Payment to Worked Lines. The principal increases are 1.32 crores for additional staff; 4.21 crores for increased Dearness Allowance and 1.68 crores for Grain Shop concessions; 2.45 crores for Maintenance expenditure; 2.08 crores for coal, including extra charges for shipment by sea; 1.84 crores for military sidings and the inflationary element in Works expenditure; and 1.62 crores on account of interest and depreciation payable to the War Department for the use of works built at their expense and of rolling stock belonging to that department. On the other hand special adjustments on account of rolling stock are 6.16 crores less and there will be savings on account of the disbandment of the Defence of India units and of the abolition of Air Raid Precautions of some 107 lakhs. Our revised estimate of total Working Expenses, including Depreciation at 17.05 crores and Payment to Worked Lines, is 169.80 crores against the original budget of 150.87 crores.

Our net Revenue is expected to be 59.43 crores and after deducting interest charges of 27.36 crores, we expect a surplus of 32.07 crores which is 4.44 crores less than the original budget. Of this 32 crores will be transferred to General Revenues and the balance of 7 lakhs to the Railway Reserve Fund.

Estimates for 1946-47

10. Turning to next year's Budget, calculations must, of course, be largely a matter of guess work. Basing our estimates of revenue, however, on this year's results taking into account known variations and after allowing for a sharp decline expected in military and parcels traffic but for a maintenance of passenger traffic owing to a continuance of plethoric money conditions combined with cheap fares and a continued scarcity of consumption goods, we place our estimate for the next year at 177 crores which is 48 crores less than the gross traffic receipts expected this year. In addition we expect a net revenue of 8.14 crores from miscellaneous transaction.

In making our estimate of ordinary working expenses in 1946-47 we have to reduce from this year's estimate 19.72 crores, on account of the reduction in the special adjustments on account of rolling stock, military sidings and structural works, the write off of the cost of dismantled lines and abandoned assets and the hire charges payable to the War Department. We have provided 54 lakhs less under Repairs and 44 lakhs less under compensation claims. We expect to save 1.56 crores under Defence of India Units and 1.68 crores under loss on grain shops. These and other minor savings aggregate 24.66 crores. But although we hope to stop sending coal by sea in the course of the year with a resultant saving in freight, we shall be using up this saving in moving more coal by rail in order to build up our depleted stocks. We also expect to spend 48 lakhs more on new minor works. After making these adjustments in the estimates for the current year, we place our estimate of ordinary working expenses for the next year at 125.78 crores. The appropriation to the Depreciation Fund will be reduced by 4 crores because of the stoppage of the additional contribution for excessive war-time wear and tear and there will be an increase of 17 lakhs on account of the increase in the Capital at charge which is due partly to the acquisition of further railway lines. After allowing for interest charges of 27.24 crores, our surplus net revenue is expected to be 12.22 crores, 19.85 crores less than in the current year.

Without prejudice to any settlement under a new Convention regarding the division of future surpluses between Railway Reserves and General Revenues which may have to be the subject of further consideration by Government and this House during the coming year, it has been decided that the contribution to General Revenues will consist of 1 per cent. of the capital at charge of commercial lines less the loss on strategic lines, together with half the balance remaining after setting aside 3 crores for a Betterment Fund. This will give 7.36 crores to General Revenues and 1.86 crores to the Railway Reserve Fund.

Betterment Fund

11. In February 1945 the Standing Finance Committee for Railways recommended that during years of prosperity a fund be built up by appropriation from surpluses for financing amenities for lower class passengers, the expenditure on which was likely to be unremunerative. We now have before us a large programme of additions and improvements covering amenities to lower class passengers, staff welfare and other items designed for the safety and comfort of the public, which are not likely to be remunerative, and which unless other provisions were made, would, contrary to the best railway practice in other countries and the advice of leading authorities on railway finance, be charged to Capital. Government accept the view that such betterments as do not increase the earning capacity of the railways should be a charge to revenue and not to Capital. In order, therefore, to provide for this and to enable the Board to plan ahead their programme of such works, they have decided to start a Betterment Fund by transferring a sum of 12 crores from the Railway Reserve and a sum of 8

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crores from the net revenue of 1946-47. Subsequent appropriations to the fund will depend upon the net revenue of each year and on a consideration of the respective needs of the railways and of General Revenues subject of course, to any Convention which may hereafter be adopted for the distribution of surpluses between Railway and General Revenues. Both appropriations to and expenditure from the Fund will be subject to the vote of the Legislature, but it has not been possible, in the time available since the decision was made, to include in the present budget any estimate of the expenditure from this fund next year.

Reserve Fund

12. We began the current year with a balance of 37.48 crores in the Reserve Fund. After withdrawal of 8.5 crores to cover the difference between the accumulations in the Depreciation Fund and the original cost of rolling stock, as arranged last year, and adding the surplus of 7 lakhs expected, the fund will stand at 29.05 crores on March, 31st, 1946. After transferring 12 crores to the Betterment Fund as suggested, withdrawing 1.82 crores on account of arrears of depreciation and adding the appropriation from surplus of 1.86 crores and 2 lakhs representing the profit on branch line shares purchased from the Reserve which will be cancelled on the acquisition of the lines by Government, the Fund at the end of 1946-47 will stand at 17.11 crores, of which 7 crores was earmarked last year for deferred maintenance.

Depreciation Reserve Fund

13. The Depreciation Fund which opened at 102.21 crores on April, 1st, 1945 is expected to close at 106.61 crores on March, 31st, 1946, and at 98.88 crores on March, 31st, 1947.

Review of the Railways' position

14. In closing my last Railway Budget speech, it is proper to review the position of railway finance. There is no question, of course, that the Indian Government railways have prospered financially in many ways as the result of the war. On April, 1st, 1939, the Railways had accumulated unpaid contributions to General Revenues of 35.41 crores, in spite of borrowings of over 30 crores from the Depreciation Fund which stood at 25.09 crores. The Railway Reserve Fund contained the exiguous figure of 48 lakhs only. At the end of the current year we calculate that after contributing during the war 158.48 crores to General Revenues including the arrears of contribution, our Depreciation Fund will stand at 100.61 crores and our Reserve Fund, before any transfer to the Betterment Fund, at 29.05 crores. We shall also have met loss on strategic lines to the extent of 6.01 crores.

In spite of these improvements calculations submitted to the Convention Committee showed that the Depreciation Fund is by no means excessive, if indeed it is adequate to meet the increased level of replacements. The Reserve Fund at the end of the current year will represent only some 3.82 per cent. of the capital at charge or only a little over one year's interest charges. It covers only a fraction of the large programme of amenities and improvements, many of them financially unremunerative, which we have in mind. Satisfaction must, therefore, be tempered with great caution, especially since the danger lies in our inability effectively to balance our budget in the future.

15. In this last connection it is my duty to issue a very clear warning. In 1938-39 the earnings of the railways were at a level of about 100 crores; they rose in 1941-42 to 135, in 1942-43 to 155, in 1943-44 to 185, in 1944-45 to 217 and this year we expect 225 crores. These results were mainly due to an increased volume of passenger and goods traffic, largely on account of war conditions and, only to a limited degree, which we estimate to an overall figure of 8 per cent., to increased rates and fares, mainly introduced in 1940. Our ordinary working expenses in 1938-39 were only 54.01 crores and, after deducting sundry abnormal charges, such as those due to the policy of writing down rolling stock purchased at high prices, rose to 102.85 crores in 1944-45 and are

expected to be some 119.52 crores during the current year. Of these charges the increase between 1938-39 and the current year has been due to some 40 crores on account of staff and 12 crores for increased costs of coal, the cesses on which payable by the railways alone now equal about 50 per cent. of the total cost of coal excluding freight in 1939-40.

16. Sir, in 1944 Government recommended the House to increase fares in order to build up a fund for post-war amenities for 3rd class passengers at the rate of 10 crores per annum. The House rejected the proposal, which Government responsively withdrew, and in course of replying to the general debate on February 21st of that year I issued a strong warning to the House concerning the need for building up reserves in view of the inevitable fall in receipts on the cessation of war. I do not wish to revive old controversies nor would it materially alter the words then used, but, as then foreshadowed, we budget next year on a fall of 48 crores in receipts to a figure of 177 crores, which is below the 1943-44 level. Future tendencies are more likely to be downwards than upwards.

17. In the course of the next year or two, Government will probably have to consider several very serious problems in connection with railway finances, among them the basis of the Depreciation Fund and the revision of the Convention, all of which will require the careful study of Committees of this House. But even more important, Government and the House may well have to give serious consideration to the linked problems of the levels of rates and fares, the price of coal and the level of wages. These are knotty problems which have to be faced courageously and with a broad outlook, if our post-war plans are to be brought to fruition, for, once our budget becomes unbalanced and our reserves are eaten up—and under unwise management they can disappear almost overnight—it will not be an easy matter to rebuild them or to find the money for extensions, improvements, staff benefits and amenities to passengers.

18. With regard to staff, it is the aim of Government to maintain the maximum possible employment on the railways, provided work of an economic kind can be found for the staff and to maintain wages and salaries at a level which will continue to give a fair deal to our men. It will take a very severe effort to earn the money to do justice to every one and much will depend upon the efficiency with which the staff themselves handle the traffic offering and encourage more traffic. As regards coal, no one, I think, wishes to see coal prices driven down to such levels as to render economic and efficient working of the mines once again impossible. If, therefore, expenses are not to be unduly cut, which would be against the expansionist policy of Government, the need to increase rates and fares in the future may have to be seriously faced, and, in this connection, I would recall that railway executives in the United Kingdom and elsewhere contemplate, I believe, that to meet similar conditions an increase of 20 or 25 per cent. may be necessary. Happily it is not necessary in India this year and, if traffic is maintained or expands, may never be necessary, but I should have failed in my duty if I had not put the contingency squarely before the House.

Rates

19. The acquisition by the Government of all the major Indian railways clearly renders desirable and possible a thorough revision of the railway rates structure. It is important in considering this subject to draw a distinction between a revision of the rates structure, system or procedure and the rating policy or determination of the level at which general or particular rates shall be based in the post-war world. With regard to the latter question the House will probably agree with me that it is as difficult to determine with any finality at this point of time what the future level of rates shall be, as it is for Government to determine what the level of salaries and wages of their servants shall be or for a business firm to settle with any degree of permanency what the future sales levels of their products shall be. All are dependant upon a clear view

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of the general level of prices and of costs of living, and the permanent rating policy must depend upon many factors as yet undetermined, such as the effect of road and sea transport on railway traffic and the tariff policy of the country. There is, however, no reason why the revision of the rates *structure* should not be tackled now. This task was in fact taken up by the Indian Railway Conference Association in 1943 and has since been under the close study of experts. In the past the rating structure was affected by the fact that each railway, company-owned and managed or otherwise, functioned as a commercial concern limited only by the statutory maxima and minima, and there has grown up a rating system of extreme complexity. It will probably bring home to the House the extent of this complexity if I mention that the unravelling of the system involves the detailed study and correlation of between 10 and 20 thousand rates. Progress may to the uninitiated seem slow, but valuable progress has been made. The Wedgwood Committee in 1937 found that the application of the "continuous" mileage principle to telescopic rates where the "discontinuous" mileage principle is now in force, would be bound to lead to heavy losses to the railways, which might, of course, severely affect their economic survival. Intensive study has shown that this hurdle can be overcome, and the Indian Railway Conference Association have reported favourably on the possibility of introducing telescopic class rates on a "continuous" mileage and on various other improvements and simplifications. It is hoped, therefore, before long to produce a revised system of rating which will eliminate the shortcomings of previous practice in unhealthy competition between railways which produced uneconomic and complicated rating and routing, to reduce very drastically the difference between railway risk and owners' risk rates, and to eliminate anomalies and simplify procedure to the greatest possible extent. These are objectives which had long been called for by public opinion, and I hope before next year that it will be possible to lay before a Committee of this House and the Post-War Transport Policy Committee for detailed study, proposals in a form in which the implications of this particularly complicated problem can be fairly easily assimilated.

Conclusion

20. And so to sum up, India has in her railways a very valuable asset which has been maintained without disastrous loss of efficiency owing to war usage and which is in many ways much better equipped technically than before the war. Rehabilitation is in hand and resources exist to effect it without undue strain. Financially the position is far sounder than it has been at any stage in the history of the railways; its strength has been increased by the policy followed in the war and bears no relation to the situation revealed after the last war. Lower class travel has not been comfortable in the past because the main consideration has been the provision of cheap travel to India's impoverished masses, but improved coaching stock and other amenities together with properly co-ordinated road services should better the conditions of travel in future. The railways should soon be able to meet the demand for goods traffic and will expand to meet further industrial and agricultural production. The one great potential danger which has to be faced is the wartime legacy of a high level of operating costs and of post-war commitments for amenities, together with a level of rates and fares out of tune with the general level of prices. Forewarned is forearmed. India has a great asset which must be carefully nursed and firmly administered.

21. Finally, it gives me once again great pleasure to pay tribute in deep sincerity to the grand work of the railwaymen. From the Chief Commissioner, Sir Arthur Griffin, downwards they have given, under the heart-breaking limitations imposed by war conditions, good service to the public in critical days and, if I may end on a personal note, I shall for ever treasure the loyal support which I have had and the friendships and associations which I have enjoyed during my days among the railwaymen of India.

INDIAN COINAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1906.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1906."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Mr. H. Weightman (Secretary, External Affairs Department): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department, on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan and the tribal areas, for the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and the financial year 1946-47."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department, on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan and the tribal areas, for the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and the financial year 1946-47."

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): I desire to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the scope of this committee appears to be very restricted. This committee is not expected to go further than to deal with subjects which relate to British Baluchistan and the Tribal areas. I am not quite certain what exactly the Honourable Member means by 'tribal areas' because tribal areas are on the North West as well as on the North East. I wonder if the tribal areas contemplated here cover both the regions.

Further the Department covers a much wider field than that mentioned here because I believe the External Affairs Department has to deal with some parts in the Middle East and also with certain coastal areas of Arabia.

I P.M. I am perfectly certain that the Department deals with those areas. If the Honourable Member denies it, I shall have to revise my opinion. But to the best of my information, the Department certainly deals with a much wider field, with Persian Gulf, for instance. In any case, the Department deals with a much wider field than mentioned here, and therefore, my suggestion is that we should postpone the election of the committee which is contemplated in this Motion, until we find that the Government are prepared to give us a wider field to cover. Even if it is only a matter of advice, let us look into all that the Government deals with. After all, sooner or later, we have got to take over these Departments. Why should we not be allowed to look into the entire working of the Department. That is how we look at the proposition. I do not wish to make a long speech on the subject. I am perfectly certain that the views I have expressed will commend themselves to this House.

Mr. President: What does the Honourable Member mean? Postpone consideration of the Motion?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes, until we have a wider field to look into for this purpose.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): I entirely endorse the views expressed by Mr. Asaf Ali, because the scope of the Committee seems to me, as it is on paper, very limited. We are not yet told as to what the function of this Committee will be, as to whether it would look into the affairs in the Middle East, as Mr. Asaf Ali just now mentioned. If it does not, then I would like the Honourable Member to tell us as to whether

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this Committee will deal with all the subjects arising out of British Baluchistan or only subjects placed before the Committee by the Honourable Member, or whether Honourable Members will be allowed to give notice of questions relating to British Baluchistan only. I should like the Honourable Member in charge of the External Affairs Department to make a statement on this subject or circulate a note, so that we may be in a position to judge as to what attitude we should adopt.

Mr. H. Weightman: Sir, the form of this Motion is in accordance with the rules regarding the constitution of Standing Committees which in turn were based on the recommendations of a Select Committee of the House. Perhaps I may read the relevant portion of the Select Committee's recommendations.

"There remains only the External Affairs Department. We recognise that in so far as foreign affairs are concerned, this Department occupies a very special position from the relevant point of view. To this extent we accept the contention that an Advisory Committee could not be properly attached to this Department. We feel, however, that no objection should attach to the setting up of a Standing committee to advise on those activities of the Department which pertain to the tribal areas and Baluchistan. We are assured that this question will receive early and sympathetic consideration. In view of this assurance, we do not desire to press for any immediate action in the case of the External Affairs Department."

That assurance was given and action was taken accordingly.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee (Nominated: Non-official): What is the date of that assurance?

Mr. H. Weightman: The Select Committee reported on 28th February 1945. The Committee had on its membership persons of such eminence as Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan and one or two other Members who are still with us in this House. We are proceeding on the basis of the recommendations of this Select Committee and the rules framed thereafter. On the question whether we have any administrative responsibilities in the Middle East, the answer is—no. We have a responsibility for finding personnel for filling certain Agencies and Consulates in the Persian Gulf. As for British Baluchistan, we shall of course proceed in accordance with the rules framed for the guidance of these Advisory committees and make no attempt to exclude any matter which properly came within the terms of these rules.

It seems a pity, if I may say so, to delay matters. Even as matters stand at present, we can I think do some useful work. I would therefore ask that the Motion be taken as it stands and that we should not delay.

Mr. President: I could not quite follow the request of the Honourable Member Mr. Asaf Ali. As far as I understood it, it seems to be that the scope of subjects for advice should be co-extensive with the subjects which this particular Department is dealing with. That seems to be the subject of his request. As I understood the Honourable Member, this scope seems to be in addition to Baluchistan and Tribal Areas, questions relating to Persian Gulf. This is perhaps much wider. If that is so, then, of course it is for the Government to consider, and it is for the Parties in the House to come to any settlement about it as to whether the scope should be restricted as it is at present or it should be co-extensive with the activities of the Department. I may point out one difficulty which I feel at present and that is, this committee is constituted under the Rules regulating the constitution and procedure of standing committees, the proceedings of which I believe the Honourable Member read out just now. According to his motion, the committee as constituted will advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan and the tribal areas. So, just at present the difficulty will be that so long as these orders stand as they are, it will not be possible to amend this motion by even an amendment even if all parties are agreed that the scope should

be extended. If it is the desire of certain parts of the House to have the scope extended, then the best course would be to put the motion off for a couple of days. In the meanwhile, members may meet and have discussions in private, rather than have discussion on the floor of the House and then see if it is possible to arrive at an agreed motion.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolo Haroon: That will be much better.

Mr. President: In view of the opinions expressed by both parties in the House, that would be the best course, unless the Honourable Member for Government says there is some urgency about it.

Mr. H. Weightman: I understand the Honourable Member opposite to suggest that we should not consider at present the formation of the Advisory Committee for External Affairs Department.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Not at all.

Mr. H. Weightman: Until we change the constitutional position.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, if I may explain, I said nothing more than this that we should postpone consideration of this motion pending an agreement between Government and ourselves. As regards the scope of this Committee we can sit down and talk about it and we can come to some sort of agreement. If we do, this motion can be brought up two or three days hence. There is not particular urgency, as far as I can see, to push this motion through today.

Mr. H. Weightman: Sir, I have no objection to postponement if that is generally desired.

Mr. President: This motion is for the time being postponed and can be taken up at some other suitable time. There will be time for discussion even today and the motion can come up tomorrow. When it is an agreed motion it will not take much time. But that, however, is for Members to decide among themselves.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Sir, in my statement last Thursday I indicated that apart from the possibility of the Insurance Bill carrying over from Tuesday to Thursday this week, we are unlikely to have any other substantial business for Thursday. I now propose to put down the Labour Member's motions for the consideration and passing of the Factories Amendment Bill on that day and also Mr. Mason's motion for the election of members to the Defence Consultative Committee.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday the 19th February, 1946.

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