

28th March 1945

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume III, 1945

(14th March to 29th March, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 28th March, 1945

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

SECTIONS IN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MUNITION PRODUCTIONS' OFFICE IN CALCUTTA

1403. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state how many sections there are in the Director General, Mmunition Production's office in Calcutta?

(b) How many Indians and how many Europeans, getting more than Rs. 250 a month, are employed in each of these Sections?

(c) When was the Director General, Mmunition Production's Office last reorganized?

(d) Is there any proposal for a reorganization now?

(e) If so, what precautions are Government taking in order to see that the interests of the Indian staff do not suffer and that there is no discrimination in favour of Europeans?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) 216 (including Purchase Sections and Ordnance Factory Division, etc.)

(b) If the information is given section by section as desired by the Honourable Member the statement will run into many sheets. I am therefore giving only the totals. They are as follows:

Indians : 387 (including 34 Anglo-Indians),

Europeans : 142

(c) The Directorate-General, Munitions Production, excluding Ordnance Factory Division, was reorganised in January 1944. The Ordnance Factory Division was reorganised in August 1944.

(d) Yes, there was, but it has been decided not to proceed with it.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the volume of purchases of the Supply Department is going down, will the Honourable Member inform this House what arrangements he is making for reduction in the staff?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The volume of purchases is, as I gave an answer a few days ago, not going down; but the Department has constantly in mind the question of reducing the staff as occasion arises.

OVERCROWDING IN BOMBAY SUBURBAN TRAINS

1404. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether the overcrowding in the Bombay suburban trains is due to scarcity of carriages and reduction of trains, or it is due to an increase of traffic?

(b) Have Government taken any steps to ease the situation and, if so, what are they?

(c) Are trains at the rush hour carrying maximum number of carriages?

(d) Has there been any reduction in the number of electric locomotives through any reason other than their diversion to military traffic?

(e) Are any electric locomotives on order, or is it the shortage of carriages?

(f) Have Government thought of sending unscheduled extra trains during the rush hour?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The overcrowding in the Bombay Suburban trains is due to a heavy increase of traffic and the fact that it has

not been possible to augment the suburban coaching stock, which consists of vehicles of a special type.

(b) The number of trains run daily has been increased. Additional coaching stock is being ordered, an altered seating arrangement with a view to augment the capacity is being tried, and vigorous efforts to prevent ticketless travellers taking up accommodation in trains are being made.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). The reference is apparently to Multiple-Unit-Motor Coaches which are used on Suburban services. There has been no reduction or diversion of these coaches.

(f) The proposal has been considered but not found feasible.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May we know what steps are being taken to increase the number of electric locomotives, which has diminished on account of the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The number has not diminished.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (d) of the question the Honourable Member said something.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I said it is not a question of locomotives but of Multiple-Unit Motor Coaches, and there has been no reduction of these coaches in the suburban services. A small number have been on order since before the war, but we have not been able to get any at all. For the 1945-46 programme, there are 80 coaches, 20 motor coaches and 40 trailers and 20 driving trailers; and for the 1946-47 programme there are a total of 80 electric suburban coaches on order.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the very serious difficulties which the civil population is experiencing, will the Honourable Member consider the use of ordinary carriages instead of these special carriages which are used on the suburban lines, and thus increase the accommodation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Unfortunately we have none to spare, apart from other considerations.

FREE QUARTERS FOR INFERIOR AND LABOUR SERVICES ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY-

1405. ***Lala Sham Lal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the employees in the inferior and labour services on the North Western Railway are entitled to rent-free quarters? Are they entitled to house allowance in lieu of such free quarters? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that for the purpose of allotment of quarters the staff are divided in two categories, i.e., essential and non-essential, and that the essential staff are to get quarters first? Is it also a fact that at several stations non-essential staff get quarters first, even though essential staff are awaiting chances?

(c) Is it a fact that the discrimination referred to in (b) above has contributed to corruption amongst subordinates dealing with allotment of Railway quarters?

(d) Do Government propose to allow house-rent to the staff referred to in (a) above in lieu of free quarters? If not, how is the discrimination in the allotment of quarters sought to be remedied?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first two portions of the question is in the negative. As regards the last portion, the Honourable Member is referred to the rules contained in Chapter XIX of the State Railway Engineering Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. No employee has the right to be provided with quarters. Employees (other than Workshops employees) who are classified as inferior and whose emoluments do not exceed Rs. 30 p.m. may be allowed to occupy railway quarters free of rent if these are available.

(b) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, this may occur when the vacant quarters are not of the type for which the essential staff are eligible.

(c) No complaints regarding corruption by officials entrusted with the allotment of quarters have been received by the Railway Administration.

(d) The reply to the first portion is in the negative. As regards the latter portion, Government have no reason to believe that there is any abuse in the practice of allotment of quarters of the respective types in order of priority and do not consider that action is called for.

OCCUPATION OF UPPER CLASS WAITING ROOMS BEFORE PURCHASE OF TICKETS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1406. *Lala Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that at small stations on the North Western Railway tickets are issued one or half an hour before the departure of the train? Is it a fact that upper class passengers can occupy Waiting Rooms two hours before the departure of the train? How are these passengers allowed the use of Waiting Rooms without obtaining ticket?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway staff insist on the possession of a ticket as a pre-requisite to the occupation of Waiting Rooms?

(c) Is it a fact that the North Western Railway Administration leaves these matters to the discretion of the subordinate staff at stations? What steps do Government propose to take to alter rules to allow the occupation of Waiting Rooms as a matter of right without looking for a Railway employee's discretion?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) At small stations, booking offices open not less than one hour before a passenger train is due. Upper class passengers can, however, purchase their tickets up to 15 days in advance. With regard to the second part of the question, Station Masters have standing instructions to open waiting rooms two hours before a passenger train is due and hence upper class passengers in possession of tickets can occupy waiting rooms two hours before the departure of a train. In view of what is stated, the third part of the question does not arise.

(b) The rules require that waiting rooms at stations may be occupied by *bona fide* passengers only and in accordance with the class of ticket held.

(c) No. The second part of the question does not arise.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that passengers are allowed to occupy waiting rooms for two hours and further in view of the fact that sometimes connecting trains at junction stations are not available for a period of more than two hours, are passengers at such stations permitted to occupy the waiting rooms for more than two hours?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, in certain circumstances they are. For instance passengers arriving at night are allowed to occupy the waiting rooms till the next morning, but we do not desire that waiting rooms should be used as dak bungalows.

PER HEAD SUGAR QUOTA IN BALUCHISTAN

1407. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) how much sugar is allowed per head in Baluchistan;

(b) whether the rural and urban population receive the same amount; if not, why not; and

(c) whether he proposes to see that this discrimination is put an end to?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) The total allotment of sugar to Baluchistan for the current year was 4,100 tons. It is impossible to work this out on a *per capita* basis, for a large proportion of the population of Baluchistan are not in the habit of using sugar.

(b) Baluchistan is understood to be one of the few parts of India in which rationing in the rural areas is being attempted at all, but even here urban rationing is of course ahead of rural rationing, and there are believed to have been some inequalities in consequence.

(c) Arrangements are now in hand for levelling up rationing as between the two areas and the Local Administration now aims to provide a general *per capita* issue of about 2 lbs. of sugar per head per month to all sections of the population accustomed to its use.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the present practice is to allow to persons residing in rural areas half the quantity of sugar allowed to urban resident?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I do not think it has got as fine as that—there have been complaints, somewhat justifiably, that they are getting less; but every effort is going to be made to see that these inequalities are ruled out.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Am I to understand that the Government have fixed an equal amount of sugar as quota for residents in rural as well as in urban areas?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Yes; they will do their best for those that eat sugar. A large number of the rural population, as the Honourable Member knows, are nomadic and live in very very distant areas in the interior; but in so far as the rural population goes, every endeavour will be made to see that they get the same amount of sugar as the people in the towns.

ELECTIONS TO QUETTA MUNICIPALITY

1408. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

- (a) the progress made for holding elections to the Quetta Municipality;
- (b) how many members will be elected, and whether any will be nominated; and
- (c) whether he proposes to place the Election Rules for the said Municipality on the table of the House?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) The draft of a new Quetta Municipal Regulation has recently been received and is under examination. Elections will be held as soon as possible after promulgation of the Regulation.

(b) These questions are still under consideration.

(c) Electoral Rules cannot be framed until the Regulation has been promulgated. When that time comes, I shall be ready to consider the Honourable Member's suggestion. It is not proposed to introduce Communal electorates.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the proposal is to have more nominated than elected members?

Sir Olaf Caroe: No; the proposal is the reverse.

RULES RE SUSPENSION OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES UNDERGOING PROSECUTION

1409. ***Lala Sham Lal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether a Railway employee undergoing prosecution in a criminal court is to be placed under suspension? If so, under what circumstances, and where have such rules been published?

(b) Are Government aware that on acquittal such an employee is entitled to full pay for the period of suspension?

(c) Are Government aware that the employees on the North Western Railway are deprived of full wages on acquittal, if a casual remark is found against the suspended employee in the judgment or lack of evidence to warrant a conviction or unproved suspicion is alleged? If so, why?

(d) Is it proposed to amend the rules to allow full wages on acquittal irrespective of any remarks? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, the Honourable Member is referred to rule No. 1711 of State Railway Establishment Code Vol. I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to rule No. 2044 of State Railway Establishment Code, Volume II, from which it will be observed that full pay may be granted if the railway employee has been honourably acquitted.

(c) and (d). Full pay is not generally allowed on the N. W. Railway for the period of suspension of railway servants who have not been honourably acquitted by a Court of Law. If an acquittal is qualified, it cannot be regarded as honourable. This practice is in conformity with the provisions of clause

(b) of the rule referred to in the reply to part (b). No change in the existing rules is considered necessary.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I remind the Honourable Member if he is aware that generally the courts when acquitting the accused give him the benefit of the doubt and they very rarely use the words 'honourably acquitted' in such cases and in view of this fact will he not revise the rule?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am inquiring what the actual practice is; but I do not think there is any necessity to change the rule. I understand that the practice is humane and sympathetic.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: In this connection, will the Honourable Member please consider not suspending employees while under prosecution, because there have been many cases in which they were disqualified from getting adequate defence but have subsequently been acquitted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That would mean the variation of rule 1711, which says "A Railway servant shall be placed under suspension when he is arrested or committed to prison pending trial by a court of law."

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is the Honourable Member aware of the terrible hardship—many of these cases are false—and while placing a man under suspension you deprive him of the resources to engage adequate defence.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think that is the case.

SUPERINTENDENTS IN DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SUPPLY, ETC.

1410. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member kindly state the total number of Superintendents (gazetted as well as non-gazetted) in the following offices:

(1) Directorate General of Supply, (2) Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply), and (3) Chief Controller of Purchase (Munitions)?

(b) How many of the above posts are held by Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, separately?

(c) Have Government made an attempt to make up the deficiency of Sikhs? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

(c) There is no deficiency of Sikhs in the grade of non-gazetted Superintendents. Against a reservation of 8 1/3 per cent. for "other minority communities" which includes Sikhs and which would on the posts in the statement represent seven, Sikhs occupy four out of seven. I think the Honourable Member will agree that particularly in regard to a post which is ordinarily filled by promotion of qualified men, Sikhs have a quite good representation in the posts referred to in his question.

As I have explained on previous occasions, the importance of securing proper representation for all communities, including Sikhs, is fully appreciated by my Department.

(a) Statement showing number of posts of Superintendent in the Directorate General of Supply Offices of the Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply) and the Chief Controller of Purchase (Munitions)

	Gazetted	Non-Gazetted	Total
Directorate General of Supply	Nil.	33	33
Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply)	...	28	28
Chief Controller of Purchase (Munitions)	...	30	33

(b) The posts of non-gazetted Superintendent are held by the members of the various communities as shown below:—

	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others
Directorate General of Supply	26	6	1	..
Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply)	23	3	2	..
Chief Controller of Purchase (Munitions)	26	2	1	1

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will Government very kindly consider the desirability of publishing a tabular statement at the beginning of each Session of the servants

of their various Departments in accordance with the communal proportions to obviate such eternal questions?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I would suggest that the Honourable Member should address that question to the Home Department.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I will do so.

PREPONDERANCE OF HINDUS IN PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL WORKSHOPS

1411. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if the facts stated in the Railway Section of the *Daily Eastern Times*, Lahore, dated 24th August, 1944, under the heading "Hindu Domination in Production Department of Mechanical Workshops" are correct?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, does the Honourable Member propose to take necessary action in order to reduce the preponderance of Hindus in Production Department and increase Muslim Strength in all grades?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The correct figures of the following categories of supervising staff in the Production Department of the Mechanical Workshops are:

Chief Rate Fixer, Gr. I—1 Hindu; 1 other communities.

Foreman, Gr. I—4 Hindus.

Senior Chargemen—10 Hindus; 7 Muslims; 2 Sikhs; 13 others.

Junior Chargemen—2 Hindus; 2 Muslims; 1 Sikh.

Assistant Chargemen—6 Hindus; 3 Muslims; 4 Sikhs.

The correct totals are: 26 Hindus; 13 Muslims; 8 Sikhs and 21 others.

The Railway Administration is examining the allegations made in the article of the *Eastern Times* referred to. I may, however, remind the Honourable Member that neither promotions nor postings are made on a communal basis and the reservation of fixed percentages for different communities in vacancies open to direct recruitment on railways will in due course remove the preponderance of particular communities in railway service.

PROMOTION OF CERTAIN NON-MUSLIMS AS JUNIOR CHARGEMEN (ELECTRICAL BRANCH) ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1412. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that three posts of Junior Chargemen in the Electrical Branch Power Side have been filled by three non-Muslims promoted by the Divisional Electrical Engineer?

(b) Is it a fact that one of these three non-muslim gentlemen promoted as Junior chargemen were considered not fit by the selection board held on 22nd February, 1944, at North Western Railway Headquarters Office, Lahore?

(c) Is it a fact that the post reserved for Muslims would have gone to Muslims if twenty Muslim workmen called to appear before the selection board would have been allowed to show their fitness to the Selection board?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please ask the North Western Railway Administration to hold a Selection Board and ask all those Muslim workmen to appear before it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the promotion of three Mistry Wiremen in or about March, 1944. Two of these were considered fit as Junior Chargemen by the Selection Board held in February, 1944. As regards the third Mistry Wireman, he was declared unsuitable by the Selection Board referred to, but in the absence of any other selected hand, he was promoted temporarily, pending the next selection, in view of the fact that he had been in charge of the construction work of the electrical installation at Hyderabad (Sind) as well as its maintenance from the very commencement.

(c) In accordance with a recent decision taken by the Administration, Workmen are not at present eligible for consideration for promotion as Junior Chargemen and as such the question of allowing them to appear before the Selection Board does not arise.

(d) This is a matter entirely within the competence of the General Manager and Government do not propose to interfere. The Administration will, however, be asked to see that any deficiency in percentage reservations for Junior Chargemen, Electrical, is adjusted as soon as possible.

PROMOTION OF CERTAIN NON-MUSLIMS AS MISTRIES BY DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS LAHORE, ETC.

1413. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether the post of Mistry in Electrical Branch of the North Western Railway is a selection post? If the reply is in the negative, will Government please state under what authority the Divisional Electrical Engineer, Lahore, and Divisional Electrical Engineer, Mechanical Workshops, have held selections and have promoted non-Muslims over the head of competent senior Muslim workmen?

(b) Did the Divisional Electrical Engineers make the selection in their individual capacity or by a duly constituted Selection Board?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The reply to the first portion is in the negative. As regards the latter portion, a trade test and an examination were held by the officers mentioned in accordance with the instructions issued by the Administration. In this connection, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the latter portion of the reply to parts (a) and (c) of his Starred Question No. 1298 asked on 23rd March, 1945. The trade test was conducted by the Divisional Electrical Engineer, Lahore, as there is no Assistant Officer in the Electrical Department, Lahore Division. The Divisional Electrical Engineer, Workshops, interviewed the senior skilled workmen to enable him to record his remarks on their recommendation roll.

CHANGE OF NAME OF National Herald POST OFFICE, LUCKNOW

1414. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) if it is a fact that there was a post office in Lucknow called *National Herald* in the premises of the *National Herald* newspaper;

(b) if the Food Controller whose offices also are now in the same premises objected to the name and made representation in this behalf to the Department; and

(c) if the name has now been changed to Kaiserbagh Post Office?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) The Regional Food Controller, whose office occupies about three-fourths of the building in which the office of the newspaper in question is located, made a suggestion that the name of the Post Office might be changed on account of the fact that the newspaper *National Herald* was no longer in publication.

(c) The name of the post office has been changed to Qaisarbagh, which is the name of the locality in which it is situated.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Did the Food Controller express his great irritation at the very name of the *National Herald* existing on the premises and was the Honourable Member's Department thoroughly frightened of that?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir. Certainly not frightened. As I said, he wrote to us saying that it was somewhat incongruous that a post office should be named after a newspaper which no longer existed. The office was first started for the definite convenience of that newspaper and the Honourable Member must be aware that it is the practice in a very large number of towns to open post offices on the premises of newspapers to give them facility of posting as late as possible. When the newspaper ceased to exist, it became incongruous to have that name and we reverted to the practice of naming the post office after the locality concerned.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the *National Herald* office is still in existence and a large amount of correspondence is still carried on in the name of the *National Herald*, will the Honourable Member not seek to oblige the Food Controller and continue the old name?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir. When the *National Herald* starts publication again and wants the post office to be opened for its convenience, we may consider the matter.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the Food Controller's office are sub-lessees of the *National Herald* and that the whole building is in the possession of the *National Herald* and that under the Defence of India Act and the rules thereunder this portion of the premises were forcibly given to the Food Controller?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have no information.

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

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They changed the name of the post office, which is not a proper thing to do. Our old paper is still in existence and the paper is not being allowed to

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has given full reasons. You may not accept the reasons given. That is another matter but you cannot go on debating a question like this.

**SELECTION OF CERTAIN NON-INDIAN OFFICERS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT
RAILWAY FOR TRAINING AS CIPHER OFFICIALS**

†1415. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether posts of cypher officials connected with wireless arrangements on Railways are not meant for Indians; if so, why Mr. Hardlers, Workshop store keeper and Mr. Medworth, Traffic Inspector on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway were selected for training as cypher officials connected with wireless arrangements on Railways and why men of Telegraph Department were ignored;

(b) whether the selection was made by one official or by a Board; and

(c) whether the posts were previously advertised; if so, when and in what way; and the number of petitions received?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). It is presumed that the Honourable Member has in mind the posts of Cipher Instructors required for the purpose of training Railway Cipher Operators. If this is the case, no restrictions have ever been placed on the employment of Indians in these posts. The Telegraph Department of the O. and T. Railway had only one senior upper subordinate the Assistant Superintendent, Telegraphs, who complied with the Railway Board's specification for this post, and other departments were accordingly requested to nominate additional suitable candidates. Messrs. Hardless and Medworth were at different stages selected together with the Assistant Superintendent, Telegraphs, by the General Manager. It has not been necessary, however, to employ either Mr. Hardless or Mr. Medworth as Cipher Instructors and the work of the cipher branch is exclusively manned and controlled by personnel of the O. and T. Railway Wireless and Telegraph Department.

(c) No; this was not considered expedient at the time for reasons of security. The reply to the second part does not arise.

**DIFFICULTY RE JUMA PRAYERS BY MUSLIM EMPLOYEES OF OUDH AND TIRHUT
RAILWAY LOCO WORKSHOPS**

†1416. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Muslim Railway employees of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway Loco Workshops are not allowed to offer their weekly Juma prayers except at the cost of their wages and dearness allowances for the period taken for the purpose; and

(b) the number of holidays with periods allowed to Hindus, Christians and Muslims on which their wages are not deducted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Muslim Workshop labourers on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are allowed an extra hour at the

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

mid-day interval on Fridays to offer Juma prayers, wages and dearness allowance being deducted for this period.

(b) All Workshop staff on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are granted 14 public holidays with pay per annum irrespective of their religion.

WITHDRAWING AUTHORITY OF GUARDS, ETC., FOR GRANTING CERTIFICATES TO PASSENGERS WITHOUT TICKETS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1417. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state;

(a) if it is a fact that the East Indian Railway have recently made rules withdrawing the right from railway guards and other relevant authorities of granting certificates to passengers who are unable, in special circumstances to purchase tickets before beginning their journey;

(b) if the Travelling Ticket Examiners can no more change the tickets from lower to higher classes in case a passenger boards a higher class than the one for which he holds a ticket for want of room; and

(c) if he proposed to ask the Railway to consider its decision in this behalf and permit the old system to continue?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) No. There has been no change in the existing rules governing the conversion of tickets by Travelling Ticket Examiners from lower to higher class in case a passenger travels in a higher class than the one to which his ticket entitles him.

(c) As a result of the abnormal conditions created by the war the privilege has been withdrawn, with a view to discouraging passengers travelling without tickets when trains are running overcrowded. The matter will be reviewed after the war.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, may I ask if he is aware that guards no more give the required certificate in case a passenger has to board a higher class in the circumstances mentioned in the question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As I said, there has been no change in the rules in that respect.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the Administrations that the guards should carry out instructions in accordance with the old rules in this behalf?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Will the Honourable Member tell me which Administration and which section he has in mind?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I am referring to the Hapur station on the E. I. R.

INSANITARY CONDITIONS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY TRAINS

1418. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that there were many complaints on the North Western Railway regarding the insanitary conditions in the running trains? What steps were taken to remove the complaints?

(b) Did the steps taken result in any improvement and convenience to passengers? If so, was it due to the work of platform inspectors?

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the affirmative does he propose to extend the system to the whole of the North Western Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I am informed that complaints were received as the result of the conditions under which railways are operating in wartime. An intensive drive to raise the standard of carriage cleanliness by the appointment of additional staff, improvement of existing washing facilities, and the provision of special equipment was instituted.

(b) I believe there has been an improvement as the cumulative result of the various steps taken. In reply to the second part of the question, this cannot be attributed to anyone particular category of staff or anyone particular measure.

(c) The various measures already operate generally over the whole of the system with perhaps minor modifications in different areas to suit local conditions.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware of any proposal to drop this kind of work after the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE PAID TO CERTAIN TICKET INSPECTING STAFF
ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY**

†1418. ***Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the information given on the 8th February, 1945 (page 32 of the Debates) in reply to unstarred question No. 35 asked on the 6th November, 1944, regarding travelling allowance paid to certain ticket inspecting staff on the East Indian Railway, viz.: "Those employed on the Asansol, Lucknow and Moradabad Divisions have not been paid the correct rate of consolidated travelling allowance to which they are eligible in accordance with Government's orders", and state: (a) the nature of action taken against the officers who acted in contravention of Government orders; if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if it is a fact that the ticket inspecting staff, who have thus suffered have represented their case from time to time; if so, with what result;

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

SENIORITY OF CERTAIN NON-GAZETTED STAFF ON RAILWAYS

†1420. ***Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the rule governing the seniority of Non-Gazetted staff selected and placed on panels of posts in higher grades or cadres on different State-managed Railways.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In accordance with rule 9 (f) of the Rules governing the promotion of subordinate staff, contained in Appendix II-A of the State Railway Establishment Code, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, the General Manager of a railway is competent to issue orders regarding the method of determining the order in which the names of candidates should be placed on a waiting list by a Selection Board. The actual practice on railways may vary on the different railways and for different classes of posts; in some instances names being placed in order of merit and in others according to seniority in substantive rank. Differences in the channels of advancement to higher posts may call for different treatment in regard to the order in which the names of candidates should be placed on a panel. It is therefore not possible to give in detail the practice followed by individual railways.

**PERMITTING ONLY IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES TO MOVE SODA
ASHES AND FULLER'S EARTH BY RAILWAY**

†1421. ***Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the reasons for permitting only the Imperial Chemical Industries (India), Limited, to move soda ashes and fuller's earth by rail;

(b) whether Government are aware that this preference is against section 42(2) of the Indian Railways Act; and

(c) whether Government propose to remove the discrimination now; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) It is not a fact that only the Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Ltd. are permitted to move soda ash and fuller's earth by rail.

(b) and (c). These questions do not arise.

FUNCTIONS OF RAILWAY BOARD

†1422. ***Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the executive and the advisory functions of the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As regards the functions of the Railway Board, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Rule 201

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

of State Railway General Code, Volume I, a copy of which is already available in the Library of the House. In regard to advisory functions, the Chief Commissioner of Railways is solely responsible for advising the Government of India in matters of railway policy. He has direct access to the Governor General and is *ex officio* Secretary to the Government of India.

ALLOWANCES, ETC., OF NON-DIRECTORATE POSTAL AND R.M.S. EMPLOYEES

1423. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether the Postal and R.M.S. employees, other than the Directorate are governed by the rules applicable to the Central or Provincial Government employees for the purposes of grant of allowances, etc.? If the Central Government employees rules are applicable, why the privileges admissible to the Central Government officials are denied to them?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Postal and R. M. S. staff are employees of the Central Government, and are not governed by rules applicable to employees of Provincial Governments. Rules regarding allowances, etc., are not, however, necessarily the same for all classes of Central Government employees in all places, in view of the differences in the conditions of service of various classes of staff. There is, therefore, no question of Postal and R. M. S. staff being denied any privileges admissible to other Central Government employees.

NON-GRANT OF EQUIPMENT ALLOWANCE TO POSTAL AND R.M.S. EMPLOYEES AT SIMLA

1424. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that a fixed amount of Rs. 50 and Rs. 30 has been paid as an equipment allowance, to the Central Government ministerial and inferior staff, respectively, irrespective of their being migratory or non-migratory, for buying warm clothings at Simla as the prevailing prices in the market were very high?

(b) Will he please state whether the Postal and R.M.S. employees at Simla were ignored in this respect?

(c) If the reply is in the affirmative, whether any representation in this connection was submitted by the staff to the Government through their union and was rejected?

(d) Will he please state the reasons for its rejection?

(e) Do Government propose to grant the same allowance to Simla postal staff also as has been paid to other Central Government employees stationed at Simla? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The equipment allowance of the amounts mentioned by the Honourable Member was sanctioned only for the migratory staff of the Government of India Departments and all offices attached or subordinate thereto, who were prevented from moving down to Delhi during the winter season 1942-43 and had therefore to incur extraordinary expenditure on winter clothing.

(b) Such of the postal and R. M. S. employees who were considered migratory were allowed to draw the allowance.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). Government do not propose to extend the concession to the non-migratory staff because, unlike the migratory staff, such staff did not have to incur much additional expenditure on warm clothing, and also because the migratory staff were prevented from moving down to Delhi after the 1st April 1942.

NON-GRANT OF COMPENSATORY HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE TO POSTAL AND R.M.S. EMPLOYEES AT SIMLA

1425. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that Government of India in the Finance Department Memorandum No. F. 6(35)RI/42, dated 12th September, 1942, and F. 6(35)RI/42, dated 30th June, 1943, sanctioned Compensatory house rent-allowance to their staff located at Simla? If so will he please state the reasons why the new

allowances sanctioned by the Government of India were not made applicable to the Postal and R.M.S. staff at Simla?

(b) Is he aware that both winter and compensatory allowances are paid to the Central Government employees during the winter season at Simla? If so, why a departure has been made in the case of the Postal and R.M.S. staff? Does he propose to sanction for them the same concessions which are enjoyed by the other Central Government servants at Simla? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). The house rent, compensatory and winter allowances referred to by the Honourable Member have been granted to the staff located in Simla under the Simla Allowances Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House and which is applicable only to the staff of the Secretariat and attached and certain subordinate offices. The Postal and R. M. S. staff of offices located in Simla are not governed by the Simla Allowances Code as their conditions of service are different from these of the former.

RAILWAYS TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT

1426. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member give a statement of the number of railways taken over by the State in India from Companies in the United Kingdom and the payment made in respect of these acquisitions in lump as well as per £100 of stock?

(b) What was the original capital of each of these companies and what was the capital amount paid to them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The Railways acquired since the outbreak of the War are:—

(1) Bengal Dooars, (2) Assam Bengal, (3) Bombay, Baroda and Central India, (4) Bengal and North Western, (5) Rohilkund and Kumaon, (6) South Indian, (7) Madras and Southern Mahratta, and (8) Bengal Nagpur.

The Bengal Dooars, Bengal and North Western and Rohilkund and Kumaon Railways were the property of the Companies. Their purchase price was fixed under their respective contracts independently of the share capital of the Companies. The purchase price and the Capital-at-charge of each of these Railways compare as follows:

Bengal Dooars Railway—The capital-at-charge—£1,120,110.

Purchase price in lump—£1,265,800.

Bengal & North Western Railway—The capital-at-charge—£8,929,605.

Purchase Price in lump—£11,509,666.

Rohilkund & Kumaon Railway—The capital-at-charge—£1,476,716.

Purchase price in lump—£2,050,047.

If the Honourable Member still feels interested in knowing how the purchase price works out in terms of £100 of ordinary stock, after excluding amounts required for the discharge of preference shares and debentures, the figures are:

Bengal Dooars Railway.—£226.

Bengal & North Western Railway.—£251.

Rohilkund & Kumaon Railway.—£330.

The majority of the Capital of the remaining Railways was already owned by Government and the Companies only owned certain limited capital which had to be repaid at par on the termination of the working contracts. Assam Bengal and Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways were purchased on these terms and the Companies were only paid their share capital of £1½ and £2 millions respectively. As the contracts for South Indian, Madras and Southern Mahratta and Bengal Nagpur Railways were terminated prematurely, 21 months before the due date in the case of South Indian and Madras and Southern Mahratta, and six years and three months before the due date in the

case of Bengal Nagpur Railway, the Companies had to be compensated for the loss of profits and the total payments made were:

South Indian Railway.—£1,112,500 representing
£111½ per £100 of stock.

Madras & Southern Mahratta Railway.—£5,275,000 representing
£105½ per £100 of stock.

Bengal Nagpur Railway.—£3,600,000 representing
£120 per £100 of stock.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is an answer which ought to have been laid on the table.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I put a supplementary question?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No; Next question.

INTERDIVISIONALLY WORKED PASSENGER TRAINS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1427. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang**: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether passenger trains on North Western Railway are worked inter-divisionally?

(b) Is it a fact that senior guards grade II are put to work on such passenger trains as luggage guards on North-Western Railway?

(c) Is it a fact that passenger trains 33 Up/34 Down, 57 Up/58 Down, 67 Up/68 Down and 75 Up/76 Down, are worked on Lahore and Delhi Divisions (inter-divisionally) by junior most guards of Lahore Division?

(d) Is it a fact that seniormost guards grade II on Delhi Division are working on Van and shunting goods trains for sixteen hours daily?

(e) Is it a fact that guards in any way protesting against working for more than twelve hours or claiming rest after twelve hours' work are charge-sheeted censured, and threatened with dismissal?

(f) Is it a fact that senior guards grade II of Delhi Division sent a telegram to General Manager, Lahore, on December 20th, 1944, and subsequent reminder claiming seniority for the above mentioned passenger trains in preference to junior guards of Lahore Division? If so, what action was taken or is proposed to be taken to safe-guard the rights of senior guards?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

REVISED SCALES OF PAY ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

1428. ***Mr. Frank R. Anthony**: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state whether revised scales of pay have been introduced for the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(b) Is it not a fact that these revised scales are lower than the scales paid to employees doing the same work on neighbouring State Railways such as the East Indian Railway and B., B. & C. I. Railway?

(c) What is the reason, if any, for this differential treatment of employees on the O. & T. Railway?

(d) Does he propose to go into this matter and equalise the scales on this Railway with those obtaining on the East Indian and B., B. & C. I. Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, for certain non-gazetted staff of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway.

(b) and (c). The revised scales for the Oudh and Tirhut Railway staff have been fixed at a slightly lower level than the East Indian Railway scales in view of the cheapness of the area through which the Oudh and Tirhut Railway traverses.

(d) The revised scales have been fixed after careful consideration of the various aspects of the case and Government do not consider any justification for equalising the scales on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway with those obtaining on the East Indian and B., B. & C. I. Railways.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member place a copy containing the revised scales of pay in the Library of the House so as to make it available to Members?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The new scale refers only to certain grades of subordinate staff and inferior staff and I have already quoted some examples in the House.

**GRATUITY OR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS PROVIDENT FUNDS FOR
RUNNING STAFF**

1429. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gratuity or Special Contribution towards Provident Fund for the running staff on the Railways is calculated at the actual allowance drawn during 365 working days, subject to the maximum of 75 per cent. of pay;

(b) whether it is a fact that in a large number of cases, old records of the service of the employee on the running duty are not readily available and considerable delay occurs in payment of Gratuity or Special Contribution;

(c) if Government propose to amend rules so as to make the payment admissible at 75 per cent. of pay only; and

(d) whether Government have received any representation to this effect from any Railway administrations; if so, from which Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:—(a) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to rules 1302(8) and 1502(2) of the State Railway Establishment Code a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. The calculation of the special contribution to the Provident Fund or Gratuity of running staff takes into account pay and the monthly average of running allowances drawn during the 365 days of running duty immediately preceding the date of quitting service limited to seventy-five per cent. of average pay for the same period.

(b) No report or general difficulty in referring to the records or of delays due to this has reached the Railway Board.

(c) No.

(d) No.

**PENALTY OF RELEGATION TO JUNIOR SERVICE FOR GUARDS ON NORTH
WESTERN RAILWAY**

1430. *Sardar Sant Singh: With reference to the Honourable the Railway Member's reply to part (b) of Unstarred question No. 5 asked on the 1st November 1944, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the answer also refers to transfers ordered from the higher to the lower link of train service as a measure of penalty; if so, has it been included in the Rule Books as one of the recognized penalties to be inflicted on the employees; and

(b) if the Railway Board has under consideration the revision of State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. I?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Penalties are only imposed for offences or failures. If a transfer of a person from a higher to a lower link is ordered on account of a fault, the case falls under Rule 1702(5) of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) The question of the suitability of such a penalty is being considered.

**SENDING RAILWAY OFFICERS TO AMERICA FOR TRAINING IN LABOUR
WELFARE**

1431. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Department is sending any officer to U.S.A. for training in Labour Welfare; if so, who those officers are, when they are going and what is the period of the course; and

(b) how much grant has been sanctioned for training of these officers, and what their jobs will be on return after receiving training?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to a scheme drawn up by the Department of Labour for sending to the United Kingdom (not U. S. A.) selected officers of the Labour Departments of Central and Provincial Governments for training in certain aspects of labour administrations. Two Railway Department nominees, *viz.*, Messrs. S. M. Khurshid and Hasnain Ahmed of the North Western and East Indian Railways respectively have been included in the first batch which is being sent to the U. K. shortly. The course in the U. K. will take from six to eight months.

(b) The average estimated cost per officer of the Central Government including the cost of entertaining substitutes is Rs. 8,600. As regards the latter portion these officers will be employed in a capacity for which they are considered most suitable after the requisite training.

SENDING RAILWAY OFFICER TO ENGLAND FOR TRAINING AS PAINT TECHNOLOGIST

1432. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware of the report of the Paint Technologist published in June, 1938, by the Government of India, Railway Department, known as the Fancutt Report?

(b) Are Government aware that in paragraph 8 of page 3 of the Report under the heading "Summary", there was a suggestion for sending a chemist to England for twelve months to learn the principles and methods adopted in the L.M.S. Paint Laboratory and Works? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if any one had been sent according to the recommendation above referred to? If not, has any officer for Co-ordination and Control been appointed by the Railway Board yet, who is a trained Paint Technologist?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to enquire or advertise for such experts available in India?

(d) Is it not a fact that the Supply Department has saved a considerable amount by giving special specification for paints through the Departmental expert? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to enquire from the Supply Department, if they could spare the services of their expert to help the Railway Board, or if the Railway Board would appoint any such available Indian?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are aware of this suggestion.

No chemist has been sent to England for this purpose nor has any such appointment been made.

(c) Government do not consider it necessary to appoint such an Officer at the present moment.

(d) In consultation with the Supply Department, the Government Test House, Alipore, drew up in 1944 a range of Composition Specifications for Railways' requirements in enamels and varnishes. These specifications were drawn up having regard to the present availability of raw materials in this country and also with the object of widening the field of supply.

It is not possible to say definitely if there has been any saving as although purchase prices may have been lower; sufficient time must elapse before it can be stated whether or not the paints accepted against the new specifications are cheaper in the long run.

The question of approaching the Supply Department for an expert does not arise as the services of the Supply Department as well as those of the Government Test House at Alipore are at the disposal of the Railway Department.

SCALES OF PAY OF GUARDS ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS

1433. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the scales of pay, revised and old, for all classes of guards, on North Western, Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways; and

(b) whether it is a fact that in 1934 while revising the scales of pay for all subordinate staff, the Railway Board accepted the principle of 'uniform scales' for all Railways for same class of staff; and, if so, whether this principle has been adopted in case of guards; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the required information.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (c) of Lalā Sham Lal's Starred Question No. 1081 asked on 15th March, 1945.

Statement showing the scales of pay, old and revised, of guards employed on East Indian, G. I. P., and North Western Railways

Railway	Category	Scale of pay	
		OLD (CO-ORDINATED)	REVISED
E.I.	Guards Grade I.	90-10-180	100-10/2-120
	Guards Relieving,		100-10/2-120
	Guards Grade II	30-5-70	30-3-45/5-60
	Guards Pilot	120-10-180	100-10/2-120
	Guards Conductor	100-10-180	65-5/2-85
	Guards Gunner	85-10-115	30-3-45/5-60
G.I.P.	Passenger Guard A grade	170-15-10-15-210	160
	Goods Guard A grade	115-15-10-15-155	120
	Goods Guard B grade	70-10-15-10-15-130	70-5-90
	Guard C grade	50-5-70	50-5-50
	Guards D grade	35-3-50	30-4-50
N. W.	Guards Grade IV	125-10-185-200-210	(100-10/2-120 Grade II)
	Guards Grade III	75-5-105-10-115	(65-5/2-85 Grade I)
	Guards Grade II	40-3-52-4-60-68	30-5-50-5/2-60
	2nd Guards	30-1-35	30-1-35

INSTRUCTIONS AUTHORISING RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS TO REDUCE AN EMPLOYEE TO LOWER POST

1434. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board have recently issued instructions to the Railway administrations authorising them to reduce an employee to the lower post; if so, will the Honourable Member please lay a copy thereof on the table of the House;

(b) whether it is a fact that in April, 1941, the Railway Board, had issued instructions that no employee be reduced from the higher to the lower grade or post; if so, why these orders were superseded;

(c) how many petitions have been filed on the Indian Railways during the last two calendar years before the authorities appointed under the Payment of Wages Act, and in how many cases have these authorities held such reductions illegal; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to issue instructions to stick to the accepted interpretation of the Payment of Wages Act, on the point of reduction, till the Act is amended?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to part (a) of Sardar Sant Singh's Starred Question No. 53 asked in this House on the 30th October, 1941, regarding certain instructions which were issued at that time. It was subsequently found that the procedure laid down in these instructions could be simplified. Orders permitting the reduction, permanently or temporarily, to a lower grade were therefore issued.

(c) I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) As the first instructions referred to in the reply to part (a) above were not based on an accepted interpretation of the Payment of Wages Act, Government see no reason to revert to them.

SUPPLY OF MEALS TO RAILWAY STAFF AT REFRESHMENT ROOMS AT A DISCOUNT ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1435. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any instructions on the North Western Railway providing for supply of meals to Railway staff at refreshment rooms at a discount; if so, what the percentage of such discount is; and

(b) whether these instructions are published anywhere; if so where?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes; at a discount rate of 12½ per cent. on Tariff Rates (except on drinks, smokes and biscuits) in Indian Refreshment Rooms and at a Special Tariff Rate in the case of European Style Refreshment Rooms.

(b) The instruction has been included in the Tariff for Indian Refreshment Rooms and Dining Cars. A copy of the Special Tariff for European Style Refreshment Rooms is exhibited in each such Refreshment Room.

LOCAL ALLOWANCE OF RAILWAY INFERIOR STAFF AT DELHI

1436. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Local Allowance of Rs. 2/8/- is paid to inferior staff at Delhi since July last; if so, for what this allowance is paid;

(b) whether it is a fact that an employee, referred to in (a) above, does not receive Delhi Local Allowance if he has a free quarter; if so, why;

(c) whether the condition referred to in part (b) above also applies in the case of members of the subordinate Railway staff employed at Delhi; if not, why;

(d) whether Government propose to remove the discrimination in the matter of conveyance and local allowances of the inferior and subordinate staff; and

(e) whether it is a fact that subordinate staff at Shakurbasti—Shahdara on North Western Railway in Delhi Area and Delhi Serai Rohila and Delhi Cantonment on B., B. & C. I. Railway are not given any local allowance or house allowance; if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). This local allowance, which is classed as a compensatory allowance, has been sanctioned to afford relief to such inferior and labour staff as are finding it hard to live on account of having to pay a good percentage of their pay in rent for private accommodation. It is, therefore, only admissible to those not occupying railway quarters free of rent.

(c) No, because the local allowance in the case of subordinate staff was not granted in consideration of rents paid.

(d) Government consider that the allowances are commensurate with the needs of each case.

(e) This question is under examination.

TRAINING FOR SECTION CONTROLLERS' JOBS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1437. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how employees are trained for Section Controllers' jobs on the North Western Railway, and whether they have to pass any qualifying examination after training;

(b) whether any further written or oral examination is required of trained persons referred to in (a) above for promotion as Section Controllers; if so, how;

(c) if the reply to (b) above be in the negative, whether the Honourable Member is aware that a number of such further examinations were held by Divisions on the North Western Railway; if so, why;

(d) if the Honourable Member is also aware that further examinations were confined only to certain divisions of the North Western Railway; if so, the reason for this discrimination;

(e) whether it is a fact that several candidates had protested to the authorities and that they have been penalized with forfeiture of their promotion; if so, why; and

(f) whether it is a fact that after training the employees are generally put to officiate as Section Controllers to see how they fit themselves in actual work?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 1437 and 1438 together.

I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

PROMOTIONS AS SECTION CONTROLLERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†1438. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** Will the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the recent selection for promotion as Section Controllers, men with practical experience were not taken up, but those who had no practical experience were picked up; if so, why;

(b) whether he proposes to lay on the table of the House a list of candidates selected as Section Controllers on the North Western Railway in 1945, with particulars of their officiating service as Section Controllers; and

(c) the steps Railway Board propose to take to carry out Inglis-Appleton Commission's recommendations on the subject of Train Control and ensure that tried and experienced Section Controllers are taken up as recommended by the above Commission?

NEW EXPERIMENT RE TICKET CHECKING ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

†1439. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware of the fact that Oudh and Tirhut Railway attempted to devise a new scheme for checking tickets and appointed fresh staff of inexperienced men under the name of Train Supervisors and discarded the experienced ticket examiners?

(b) Did the Railway Board give permission for such an experiment?

(c) Is it not a fact that this new experiment failed? What was the loss incurred by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway on this experiment?

(d) Is it not a fact that the North Western and East Indian Railways have now evolved a scheme for checking tickets after many experiments? Why was that scheme not followed by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) On and from 1st March 1944, the O. & T. Railway as an experimental measure appointed a number of Train Supervisors for special duty at junction stations.

(b) The matter was within the competence of the Railway Administration and the question of the Railway Board giving permission did not arise.

(c) I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) The arrangements on the N. W. and E. I. Railways have been in force for many years. With regard to the second part of the question, Railway Administrations are competent to make arrangements that suit them best.

LOW SALARIES AND OTHER GRIEVANCE OF STAFF ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

†1440. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that the existing grade of the Travelling Ticket Examiners and the frequent transfer of the low paid staff has created great dissatisfaction?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1437.

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

(b) Are Government contemplating to raise the salaries of the officers on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway and bring them to the level of other State Railways?

(c) Is it a fact that the D.T.S. in charge of Travelling Ticket Examiners is a local officer who has got a large number of relatives residing in the area and serving on petty jobs in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Honourable Member has not specified the railway to which the complaint refers.

(b) No general revision of the scales of pay of officers on the Oudh & Tirhut Railway is under consideration.

(c) I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

INCREASE IN CLAIMS PAYMENT ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

†1441. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is not a fact that the claims payment on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway has substantially increased since the State took over the charge of the Railway? What are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes. The increase in the amounts paid is, however, not due to the change of management but to various other causes which *inter alia* are:

- (i) Complexities of operation created by the war;
- (ii) Heavy increase in traffic;
- (iii) Congestion in goods and parcels sheds;
- (iv) General increase in prices making thieving more profitable;
- (v) Black-out conditions making theft easier;
- (vi) Defective packing of consignments;
- (vii) Increase in the number of claims settled.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTANTS

†1442. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air kindly state:

- (a) the total number of Posts and Telegraphs Accountants, both temporary and permanent;
- (b) how many of them are Muslims;
- (c) the steps so far taken to ensure that Muslims are fully represented in every grade of the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants cadre; and
- (d) whether Government propose to lay down that recruitment to the various grades of Posts and Telegraphs Accountants cadre will be subject to Communal Orders?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: (a) 84 departmental men and 15 temporary officials on loan from Audit Offices.

(b) Four.

(c) This is a promotion examination and is, therefore, outside the scope of the communal orders which apply only to posts filled by direct recruitment. Steps have, however, been taken to recruit two Muslim candidates as probationary Accountants.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply at (c) above.

GAZETTED POSTS TO WHICH RECRUITMENT IS MADE FROM POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTANTS

†1443. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

- (a) the total number of gazetted posts, both permanent and temporary, recruitment to which is made from the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants;
- (b) how many of them are Muslims;
- (c) whether appointment to these posts is made by selection; and
- (d) if the reply to (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to appoint a Board for selecting suitable officials for these higher posts?

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

Sr. Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Permanent—4; Temporary—3.

(b) One.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

RECRUITMENT TO POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTANTS CADRE

†1444. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) whether all the officials after the introduction of the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants cadre during four years from 1938 to 1942, who dealt with cases relating to framing of rules for conducting the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants Service Examinations and all other establishment questions connected therewith, were from the Subordinate Accounts Service passed men who were borrowed to man the Posts and Telegraphs cadre temporarily;

(b) whether the first examination for recruitment to the cadre was held three years after its introduction; what the cause of such delay was; and

(c) if Government propose to place on the table of the House a statement showing the actual pay, with the scale of pay drawn by each of the borrowed men before their transfer to the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the pay, with the scale of pay, including special pay, if any, granted to each of them after their transfer to the Posts and Telegraphs Department on a temporary basis?

Sr Gurunath Bewoor: (a) No; the rules were framed by the Director General in consultation with the Finance Department.

(b) Yes; the delay was due to the following reasons:

The final drafting of the recruitment rules, which had to be examined by the Finance Officer (Communications) and the Auditor General, was completed only in October 1939. The Rules were published in the Director General's Circular early in January 1940. The first examination was announced to be held in December 1940 so as to allow sufficient time for the candidates to prepare for the examination. As certain departmental books and publications required by the candidates were not available in sufficient quantity and had, therefore, to be printed up, the examination was postponed to May 1941 at the request of the candidates and the Posts & Telegraphs Unions.

(c) The information is not readily available but will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

CLERKS IN THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL, MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA PUNISHED FOR ABSENTING DURING JAPANESE AIR RAIDS

1445. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state the number of clerks and their grades, employed in the Directorate General, Munitions Production, Calcutta, who were dismissed and black-listed from service (thereby rendering them ineligible for further Government Service) for the alleged offence of absenting themselves from duty on medical certificate during the Japanese air raids on Calcutta during winter 1942-43?

(b) Is it a fact that these clerks were dismissed and black-listed in disregard of medical certificates submitted by them from registered medical practitioners of Calcutta? If so, why?

(c) Are Government aware that there is a procedure under which a Government servant, before being dismissed, is given an opportunity in the shape of a "charge sheet" to clear his conduct, but that this procedure was ignored under the orders of the then Joint Secretary, M. P. Secretariat, Calcutta? If so, why?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Three in the grade of Rs. 45—60—2—80. One in the grade of Rs. 45—5/2—95.

(b) These clerks along with a number of other absented themselves with or without leave during the air raids. They subsequently produced medical certificates. One of them was given a number of extensions of leave, but as he showed no signs of returning to duty he was dismissed. Another first asked

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

for leave on the ground that he was ill but did not submit any medical certificate. Then he left the headquarters and went away to his own town wherefrom he asked for leave for 2 months on medical certificate. Having regard to the circumstances in which he left the headquarters no reliance could be placed on the medical certificate furnished. The third began by taking four days' leave to move his family out of Calcutta. This was granted. Then he asked for an extension on medical certificate. This was refused as it was believed that he was asking for leave under false pretences. In the fourth case, the clerk asked for leave for seven days and furnished a medical certificate. He did not however resume his duties nor did he apply for extension of the leave. Consequently he was dismissed. I may mention that the situation in Calcutta during the air raids warranted strong deterrent action against air-raid absentees in order to prevent defection of the staff and to tighten up discipline.

(c) Ordinarily a Government servant before being dismissed is given an opportunity to clear his conduct. But this procedure was not followed in the case of air-raid absentees for reasons already given.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know why no charge-sheet was given to these people and why it was assumed that the absence was deliberate?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I understand they were temporary clerks and there is a sub-rule in rule 58 of the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules under which it is not necessary for the officer to go into various formalities in certain circumstances.

COST AND LIFE OF RAILWAY WAGON

1446. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- (a) the cost and life of a normal Railway wagon;
- (b) the cost and life of a war-time Railway wagon;
- (c) comparing both, what the proportion of price between them is; and
- (d) the depreciation allowed on these wagons?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Taking the most common type of wagon, i.e., a Broad Gauge Covered General Service Wagon as the normal Railway Wagon, the answers to the question are:

	Cost	Average life.
(a) Cost in 1938-39	Rs. 4,900	40 years.
(b) Indigenous cost in 1942-43	Approximately Rs. 8,000	40 "
To be imported in 1945-46.		
(i) Ex. U. S. A.	Approximately Rs. 12,700	20 "
(ii) Ex. Canada	Rs. 15,700	30 "
(iii) Ex. U. K.	Rs. 12,100	40 "
(c) Proportion of cost between a normal and a war-time indigenous wagon		1 : 1.6
Proportion of cost between a normal indigenous wagon and war-time wagon to be imported, after taking into account the life factor.		
(i) Ex. U. S. A.		1 : 5.2
(ii) Ex. Canada		1 : 3.2
(iii) Ex. U. K.		1 : 2.5

(d) The normal depreciation of wagons is 2.5 per cent. The situation created by the import of a large number of wagons with a shorter life has been sought to be met by the changes in the rules of allocation outlined in my Budget Speech. Whether any further action by change in the rules for calculating depreciation is necessary will be considered in due course.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the cost of the wagons imported from America is five times the peace-time cost and much more than the cost in this country, will Government consider the advisability of encouraging this industry very actively in India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. I have already explained on numerous occasions that we have already filled the Indian industry to capacity before we ordered any wagons from overseas at all.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But what about increasing it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It will not be necessary to increase the capacity after the war because the capacity of the wagon building industry

in this country will be ample to cater for the requirements of railways after the war.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Are the wagons from the U. S. A. coming under lend-lease?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, most of them.

COST AND LIFE OF RAILWAY ENGINE

1447. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- the normal life of an engine and its cost;
- the normal life of a war-time engine and its cost;
- comparing both, what the proportion in price between them is; and
- the depreciation allowed on these engines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c). The normal life of an engine is taken as 35 years but the lives of certain types of locomotives imported from America in war-time are taken as 20 years. Comparisons between pre-war and war-time types are not easy as in some cases there are no pre-war types on the Railways corresponding to the types now being imported. I however lay on the table information in regard to the four comparable types.

(d) The normal depreciation of engines is 2.86 per cent. In this connection the Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (d) of his starred question No. 1446.

STATEMENT

BROAD GAUGE.

"AWE"	Tractive effort	48,000 lbs.
	Life	35 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 420 thousand approximately.
Comparable pre-war type—XE.		
"XE"	Tractive effort	The same.
	Life	
	Cost.	Rs. 161 thousand.
Proportion of present cost to pre-war cost.....2.61 to 1.		
"CWD" & "AWD"	Tractive effort.	35,000 lbs.
	Life.	35 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 329 thousand approximately.
Comparable pre-war type—XD		
"XD"	Tractive effort.	The same
	Life.	The same.
	Cost.	Rs. 134 thousand.
Proportion of present cost to pre-war cost.....2.46 to 1.		
"AWC"	Tractive effort.	31,500 lbs.
	Life.	20 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 296 thousand approximately.
Comparable pre-war type—HGS.		
"HGS"	Tractive effort.	34,000 lbs.
	Life.	35 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 98 thousand.
Proportion of present cost to pre-war cost after taking tractive effort and life factor into account 5.71 to 1.		

METRE GAUGE.

"MAWD"	Traffic effort.	20,000 lbs.
	Life.	20 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 234 thousand approximately.
Comparable pre-war type—YD.		
"YD"	Tractive effort.	22,000 lbs.
	Life.	35 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 80 thousand.
Proportion of present cost to pre-war cost after taking tractive effort and life factor into account.....5.63 to 1.		

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (a) of the question, the Honourable Member has not given the cost.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am laying a full statement on the table. It is rather complicated.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REPLACEMENTS OF LOWER SELECTION GRADE CLERKS BY TELEGRAPH MASTERS

106. **Pandit Shambhudayal Misra:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that Government appointed Telegraph Establishment Enquiry Committee in November 1932 to investigate the methods adopted to determine the strength of establishment and to make recommendations to secure the most economical organisation compatible with efficiency in the Telegraph Traffic Branch of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(b) Will Government stop contemplated replacements of Lower Selection Grade Clerks by Telegraph Masters?

Sir Guranath Bewoor: (a) The fact is as stated by the Honourable Member.

(b) The question is under consideration and in arriving at a decision, Government will give due regard to the views of the Committee referred to in part (a) of the Honourable Member's question.

SPECIAL PAY OF CLERKS ENTRUSTED WITH DUTIES OF NON-TECHNICAL TELEGRAPHISTS

107. **Pandit Shambhudayal Misra:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that the Telegraph Establishment Enquiry Committee appointed in November 1932 recommended in paras. 56 to 65, pages 34 to 38 of the report that the non-technical non-operative posts of Telegraphists to some of which special pay was also attached, be replaced by ordinary time-scale clerks without any allowance, and the recommendation of the Committee was accepted by the Government and the ordinary time-scale clerks appointed to such non-technical non-operative post were not allowed any special pay formerly attached to such post?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons for the withdrawal of special pay from the clerks entrusted with same duties which the Telegraphists performed with special pay before their replacement, and consider the payment of the special pay formerly allowed to the Telegraphist, to the clerks who replaced them?

Sir Guranath Bewoor: (a) The facts are as stated.

(b) Telegraphists were granted the special pay in order to compensate them for the loss of chances of earning pie money and overtime. This consideration does not apply in the case of clerks.

SUPERINTENDENTS AND ASSISTANTS-IN-CHARGE IN OFFICES OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SUPPLY AND CHIEF CONTROLLER OF PURCHASE (SUPPLY)

108. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state the number and the ratio between the posts of Superintendents and Assistants-in-charge in the offices of Director General of Supply and Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply)? Will he also please define the distinction in the duties and responsibilities of the two?

(b) Is he aware that Assistants-in-charge are carrying out the same duties as those of Superintendents and are controlling Branches and sections consisting of 8 to 12 persons and disposing of about 1200 receipts per month for which they are getting a meagre allowance of Rs. 30 p.m.?

(c) Does the rate of allowance vary in different Departments of the Government of India, viz., Rs. 30 p.m. for Civil attached offices and Rs. 40 for Secretariat offices and Rs. 50 for Military offices?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudallar: (a) I place on the table a statement giving the number and ratio between posts of Superintendent and Assistant-in-Charge in the offices of the Director General of Supply and the Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply).

According to the Home Department order an Assistant-in-Charge is a Superintendent in all but name, status and pay, the difference being based not on the nature of duties and responsibilities but on the size of the Branch controlled and the quantity of work in it. As this is a new Department it has not been possible to follow the Home Department orders in every case.

In the office of the D. G. S. the practice has been to have a Superintendent and one or more Assistants-in-Charge in each Directorate; and, to assign the less important work to the Assistant-in-Charge. The Superintendent is treated as the head of the non-gazetted staff in the Directorate and remains responsible for the day to day administration of all the sections comprising that Directorate. In the office of the C. C. P. (S), owing to the dearth of suitable Superintendents the less important Sections have been generally placed under Assistants-in-Charge.

(b) Assistants-in-Charge have in some cases been performing duties similar to those of Superintendents, and handling more or less the same number of men and receipts. But this is not always a safe criterion for assessing the importance of their work and consequently the weight of responsibility. Having regard to this and to the quality of wartime temporary ministerial staff, the allowance of Rs. 30 given to Assistants-in-Charge is considered adequate.

(c) Yes.

STATEMENT

Number of Superintendents in the Directorate-General of Supply :—

(i) Superintendents	28
(ii) Assistants-in-Charge	56
(iii) Ratio between Superintendents and posts of Assistants-in-Charge	1 : 2

Number of posts in the office of the Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply) :—

(i) Superintendents	28
(ii) Assistants-in-Charge	33
(iii) Ratio between posts of Superintendent and posts of Assistants-in-Charge	1 : 1.18

RULES RE SENDING ADVANCE COPY OF PETITIONS TO THE OFFICER ADDRESSED

109. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules exist that an advance copy of petition addressed through proper channel, may be sent to the officer addressed; if so, will the Honourable Member please refer to them; and

(b) if the reply to (a) above be in the negative, whether it is proposed to issue necessary instructions?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There is no such rule but in accordance with Rule 1720 of the State Railways Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, no action is taken on such a representation.

(b) The policy of the Government is stated in the replies to Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad's Starred Question No. 566, and Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali's Starred Question No. 594, asked in this House on the 28th March, 1934, and 27th February, 1935, and in view of the instructions already issued, no further action is considered necessary.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY CANDIDATES FOR APPENDIX II ACCOUNTS EXAMINATION

110. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of candidates from North Western Railway who appeared for the Appendix (II) Accounts Examination during the five calendar years, 1941 to 1945, and the number who were declared to have secured pass marks;

(b) whether it is a fact that complaints have been received by the North Western Railway Administration and the Director, Railway Accounts, about the stiffness of question paper on 'Precis Writing and General Rules' at these examinations; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay down certain standard for the guidance of the Examiners in regard to the standard to be demanded from the candidates for this examination; if so, how?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The information required is as under:

Year	Number of candidates who appeared in the Appendix II Examination	Number of candidates who passed
1941	19	6
1942	22	3
1943	24	8
1944	55	22
1945	About 150 candidates intend to appear in the examination to be held this year.	

(b) Complaints have been received by the North Western Railway administration but not by the Director, Railway Accounts.

(c) Instructions have been issued to ensure that papers are not too lengthy or too stiff.

ABOLITION OF PHOTOGRAPHING SECTION OF PUBLICITY BRANCH, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

111. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the Photographing Section of the Publicity Branch on the North Western Railway was abolished;

(b) how the photographers released from this branch were absorbed on the Railway;

(c) whether the photographers are included in the class of 'draftsmen'; if so, whether any of them have been absorbed as clerks, if so, why; and

(d) whether there have been any complaints from staff to the authorities on absorption of the photographers in clerical posts; if so, how the same were disposed of?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No Photographing Section has ever been attached to the Publicity Branch of the North Western Railway Headquarters Office; the question of its abolition does not, therefore, arise. The post of one of the Assistant Publicity Inspectors who along with other duties was looking after Photographic work, has been held in abeyance since November, 1943.

(b) The Assistant Publicity Inspector released when the post referred in part (a) was held in abeyance, was transferred temporarily as a clerk in the Central Registry Branch of the Headquarters Office as he possessed the requisite qualifications for that post.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the negative; the latter portion does not arise.

(d) I understand that some of the Clerks in the Central Registry Branch of the Headquarters Office protested against the transfer of the Assistant Publicity Inspector as a Clerk in that Branch and they were informed that this transfer was effected on considerations of administrative expediency.

COMMODITIES SUPPLIED TO EMPLOYEES ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AT CONCESSIONAL RATES

112. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities supplied to employees on North Western Railway at concessional rates; and

(b) whether it is a fact that on several occasions *dals*, oil and *ghee* have not been supplied to Railway staff at Delhi owing to non-availability of the articles; if so, whether the employees concerned were given, in cash, the difference between the market and concessional rates; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There are 18 commodity groups which may be sold at Grain Shops, which include foodgrains, cooking media

spices, sugar, salt, tea, soap, matches, standard cloth etc. It is possible that some shops on the N. W. Railway may not have yet attained this target.

(b) As regards the first part Government are informed that there has been no occasion when *dals* were out of stock at the Grain Shops at Delhi although sometimes all kinds of *dals* were not on sale simultaneously. Vegetable *ghee* could not be supplied for two months due to difficulty of procurement and mustard oil could not be supplied to all the staff during certain months. As regards the second part, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to part (a) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No. 3, asked on the 1st November 1944 in this House.

UPGRADING OF GRADE II POSTS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

113. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Manager, North Western Railway has recently upgraded several grade I Posts to grade II; if so, how many posts of station correspondence clerks were so upgraded;

(b) whether he is aware that these clerks do exactly the same work as is done by the Divisional Office clerks;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to bring in the ratio of the higher grade appointments for the two on par; if not, what other steps Government propose to take to ease the channel of promotion of station correspondence clerks; and

(d) whether any requests have been received by the North Western Railway Administration for transfer of the station clerks to the Divisional Office; if so, was the request acceded to; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The grading of 11 posts of Station Correspondence Clerks, Grade I, on the North Western Railway has been permanently raised to Grade II with effect from 1st January, 1945, as a result of which the percentage of Grade II posts of this category to Grade I has risen to 47.8 per cent. In addition to this, Divisional Superintendents have been authorised to sanction, at their discretion, temporary upgrading where justified by a temporary increase in work and responsibility.

(b) The responsibilities of divisional office and station correspondence clerks are approximately the same.

(c) The grading of Clerks as Grade I or Grade II depends on the nature of the work to be done. It is not, therefore, possible to apply the same ratio in both cases. The upgrading sanctioned has already eased the position.

(d) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. The request of the Station Clerks was not acceded to, as the transfers asked for were not considered to be in the interests of the service.

TRANSFER OF TRAIN CLERKS, TICKET COLLECTORS, ETC., TO GRADE II GUARDS' POSTS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

114. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that transfer of Train Clerks, Ticket Collectors, etc., to grade II, guards' posts on the North Western Railway is considered as recruitment; if so, whether it is done through the N. W. R. Service Commission;

(b) whether it is a fact that the seniority of guards transferred from other Branches referred to in part (a) as compared with the directly recruited employees, is based on the date of transfer and confirmation as a guard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that recently guards have sent a memorial to the General Manager, North Western Railway, calling in question the procedure of fixing seniority; if so, what the important points of representation were and how the same were disposed off?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTANTS

115. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air kindly state:

- (a) the total sanctioned strength, both permanent and temporary, of the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants cadre as on the 1st March 1945; and
 (b) the total number of (i) departmental qualified men holding the posts of the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants and (ii) outsiders as on the 1st March 1945?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a)

Senior Accountants		Junior Accountants	
Permanent	17	11	
Temporary	10	11	
Total	27	22	
(b) Departmental qualified men		33	
Officials on loan from the Audit Department		15	
		48*	

*N.B.—One post vacant—held by an unqualified, departmental official.

GAZETTED POSTS OPEN TO POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTANTS

116. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) the present total number of sanctioned gazetted posts opened to P. & T. Accountants;

(b) the number of such posts held at present (i) by members of P. & T. Accountants, that is, men who have actually qualified in the P. & T. Accountants Service Examinations and (ii) by persons who have not so qualified;

(c) the approximate number of additional gazetted posts likely to be created in the next twelve months.

(d) Is it a fact that Subordinate Accounts Service passed men with a few years service, who have been taken on loan by some other Departments and offices of Government, viz., Military Accounts office, Supply Accounts, etc., have actually been holding posts of Accounts Officers and performing their duties satisfactorily;

(e) whether Government propose to try some of the departmental officials who have qualified in the departmental examination in the existing as well as future vacancies, in the grade of Accounts Officers, Divisional Accounts Officers, Administrative Officers, etc.; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that in future all such men who do not qualify in the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants Service Examination or are not specifically exempted by the competent authority, are not confirmed either in the P. & T. Accountants cadre or, in any of the gazetted posts opened to the Accountants?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Seven.

(b) (i) Nil. (ii) Seven.

(c) Possibly two.

(d) I have no information.

(e) The qualified departmental men will be tried when they had sufficient experience and become ripe for promotion to gazetted posts.

(f) It is not possible to lay down any hard and fast principle in the early stages of the formation of the cadre. It is open to the Director-General to fill these posts by borrowing men from the Audit Department, if the interests of public service and efficiency of the cadre so demand.

STAFF PUNISHED IN RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE

117. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the total number of staff, by communities, in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office punished by way of reduction in pay, stoppage of passes and

privilege ticket orders, stoppage of increments and also-censures and warning, etc., during 1944;

(b) the number of punishments in 1943 and the reasons for a larger number of punishments in 1944 as compared with the previous year; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the number of Hindu Staff punished is proportionately greater?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) During 1944 the total number of staff, by communities, in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office who were punished was as follows:

	Hindus	Muslims	Others	Total
Stoppage of increments and reduction to lower stages of pay	16	1	1	18
Stoppage of passes and P. T. Os.	15	0	1	16
Warnings recorded in character roll	93	26	8	127
	124	27	10	161

(b) The number of punishments during 1943 was 27. Reasons for the increase were:

(i) Expansion of the office, Staff at the beginning of 1943 numbered 1,600 and at the end of 1944 1,960;

(ii) Employment of temporary staff in large and increasing numbers;

(iii) More intensive checks and greater supervision.

(c) Yes, but cases of disciplinary action are not regulated on communal considerations.

LEAKAGE OF CERTAIN PAPERS AT APPENDIX II EXAMINATION OF RAILWAY ACCOUNTS OFFICE

118. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the 'precis' and 'drafting' paper set for Appendix II Examination of the Railway Accounts Office held in April 1944 was leaked out;

(b) if it is a fact that the said examination had to be held again in July 1944;

(c) if it is a fact that the same paper set for Appendix II Examination held in November 1944 was also leaked out;

(d) the reasons for not holding the Examination again for the paper-leaked out in November, 1944; and

(e) the action taken against the officers for leaking out the examination papers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) There was no leakage and no necessity for any re-examination.

(e) The question does not arise.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

PILOTING OF MR. BEVERLEY NICHOLS BY DR. SPEARS

Sir F. E. James: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the statement in the *Hindustan Times* of the 27th March, 1945, by Mr. K. C. Neogy enquiring if Dr. Spears, an officer of his Department, was responsible for piloting Mr. Beverley Nichols during his stay in Delhi; and

(b) if so, if this is correct?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Dr. Spears never met Mr. Beverley Nichols, much less than he ever piloted him during his stay in Delhi or anywhere else.

Government have also seen the other part of the statement of Mr. Neogy with respect to paper for the book.

Sir F. E. James: With regard to the suggestion that the Government of India actually allotted a quota of paper to the publishers for the Indian Edition of Mr. Beverley Nichols book—'Verdict on India'—will my Honourable friend, or perhaps his Honourable colleague, state what exactly is the position? Was such an allotment of paper made for that purpose?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: May I answer that question, Sir, because it relates to my Department?

I have seen the statement referred to by the Honourable Member. No special allotment of paper was made to any publisher for the publication of the Indian Edition of Beverley Nichols work 'Verdict on India'. I may add that it is not necessary for any publisher to ask for permission to print or publish any book so long as he can publish or print it within the quota to which he is entitled, and under the Paper Control Order every printer or publisher is entitled to 40 per cent. of the paper consumed by him in 1940.

Mr. G. W. Tyson: With reference to the Honourable Sir Azizul Huque's answer on the subject of paper, may I ask him whether he is aware that it is commonly reported that ten-thousand copies of this Indian Edition of 'Verdict on India' have been printed, and whether he has taken steps to establish the fact that it was possible to print an edition of that size out of the 40 per cent. quota and if also he is aware that considerable resentment has been caused amongst other publishers by reason of the fact that such a large quantity of paper has been used for such a disreputable purpose?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have not seen any such statement before, but in view of the statement made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, I will immediately enquire into this matter in order to ascertain the number of copies printed, the quantity of paper which would be required to print those, the paper which was allotted, and how could he publish it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that this book has been condemned by the public, may I know whether Government will take steps to have this book withdrawn from all libraries which are either maintained or supported by Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Government are not aware that the book is to be found anywhere in any public library.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government consider the desirability of banning this book?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, I was not in the House when certain questions arose with reference to certain things what I said. As a matter of fact, the press report is unfortunately not quite accurate. The first enquiry that I sought to make was whether Dr. Spears had piloted this Beverley Nichols at Delhi for some time, and the second point that I raised was as to how it was possible for an author like him to get the supply of paper which is controlled.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO DISCUSS RESOLUTION RE DELEGATION TO SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice of a motion for adjournment of the House from Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon—to consider an urgent matter of public interest, namely the refusal of Governor General to permit the discussion in the Legislative Assembly of Resolution regarding Delegation to San Francisco Conference—

Did he act as Governor General in Council or as Governor General?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): The position is this: This Resolution was allowed to be discussed in the Upper House on the 21st March. My point is why not give this House a chance to discuss this matter?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is another matter. I want to know whether he acted as Governor General in Council or as Governor-General?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The Governor General acted on the advice of the Governor General in Council.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): The Governor General in Council must have advised

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): This was disallowed by the Governor General. Governor General in Council has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadan): I would like to know whether the Members of Governor General's Council were consulted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is another matter.

As there is broad distinction between an action of Governor General and of the Governor General in Council, and this Resolution has been disallowed by the Governor General, I must hold that the motion is not in order.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following Message has been received from the Council of State:

"I am directed to inform you that the Council of State at its meeting held on the 27th March, 1945, agreed without any amendment to the Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 12th February, 1945."

AMENDMENTS TO AJMER-MERWARA MOTOR VEHICLES RULES.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Notification No. F/22-18(CC), dated the 11th January, 1945, relating to certain amendments of the Ajmer-Merwara Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, under sub-section (8) of Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1930.

ORDERS BY THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, AJMER-MERWARA NOTIFICATION

Ajmer, the 11th January 1945

No. F/22-18 (CC).—The Chief Commissioner is pleased to make the following amendments in the Ajmer-Merwara Motor Vehicles Rules 1940, (promulgated with this Administration's notification No. 1141/34-W/38-III, dated the 12th June 1940) the amendments having been previously published in this Administration's notification of even number, dated the 25th October, 1944.

"(i) Delete the existing sub-rule (2) of Rule 7.1 and substitute instead the following:—

"(2) Producers approved under sub-rule (1) shall not be deemed to be approved elsewhere in British India unless specifically approved by a competent authority of the jurisdiction in whose area it is to be used.

(3) No. Producers approved elsewhere in British India shall be deemed to be approved for the purposes of Sub-rule (1) unless the gas filtering certificate in respect thereof granted either within the original province or elsewhere, has been accepted by the authority specified in schedule 1".

(ii) In Schedule 1 delete the words and brackets "[List of Purpose of Rule 7.1(2)]".

(iii) Existing rule 7.4 should be re-numbered 7.4(1) and the following added as sub-rule (2):—

"(2) New or unusual designs and new methods of construction: If any person wishes to manufacture a producer, the design of which contemplates departure from ordinary practice; the employment of any new or unusual methods of construction; or the use of methods of construction and processes not in conformity with these rules and specifications shall apply to the Registering Authority stating in what respects the design departed from ordinary practice, and the modifications or relaxation of the rules and specification, which he desires to be made, with the reasons therefor".

(iv) In sub-rule (1) of Rule 7.5 read a comma after the words "air leaks" and insert the following:—"and all exposed hot surfaces shall be effectively screened from accidental contact".

Insert the following as a new sub-rule to Rule 7.5:—

"(3) The fitting of a producer plant to any motor vehicle shall be reported to the registering authority as an alteration as required by section 32 of the Act, and the vehicle shall thereupon be produced for inspection by such authority and at such time and place as the registering authority may specify".

(v) In sub-rule (3) of Rule 7.6 insert a comma after the word "of" which occurs in the last line, and insert the following between the words "of" and "the":—"and facing to the rear of,"

(vi) In sub-rule (1) of Rule 7.7 for the words "one-eighth" which occurs in the 5th line, read "one quarter".

(vii) Add the following as new sub-rules to Rule 7.7:—

"(3) The joints in any insulating material as aforesaid shall be either:—

(a) overlapped by not less than 3 inches, or

(b) butted with a covering butt-strap of the same material and thickness not less than 5 inches wide, and overlapping the butt joined equally by not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

(4) The clearance between the ground and the lowest part of any producer plant shall not be less than 12 inches.

(viii) The existing rule 7.8 should be re-numbered 7.8(1) and the following proviso and new sub-rules added:—

"Provided that in the case of a transport vehicle other than a public service vehicle the generator may be at a distance of less than 2 feet from any part of the petrol tank, but shall be as far removed therefrom as possible, and, in no case, shall there be a distance of less than 8 inches between any part of the generator or of any pipe connecting the generator or the gas filter and any part of the petrol tank.

Provided further that when any part of the generator or pipe as aforesaid is at a distance of less than 2 feet from any part of the petrol tank, that part of the generator and pipe shall be insulated for that part of the petrol tank by the interposition of the insulating material and the clearance specified in Rule 7.7.

(2) The filler cap and any other opening in the main petrol tank shall, where the generator is mounted on the side of the vehicle, be located on the opposite side of the vehicle to the generator, and shall be not less than 4 feet away from the generator and from any pipe leading from the generator to the gas filters.

(3) Any auxiliary petrol tank with gravity feed shall be located in front, as far from the generator as practicable".

(ix) In sub-rule (d) of Rule 7.11—

(i) before the word "clean" insert the following:—"at any time when there is fire in the generator".

(ii) Substitute the word "take" which occurs in the first line of this sub-rule by the word "rake".

(iii) after comma which occurs after the word "vehicle" in the second last line of this sub-rule insert the following:—"or on any road surface".

(x) (a) In sub-clause (1) of Clause (2) of Schedule II insert the word "not" between the words "vehicle" and "being".

(b) Insert the following sub-clause as sub-clause (ii):—

"(ii) In the case of goods vehicle being a heavy transport vehicle—15 miles per hour".

(c) Re-number existing sub-clause (ii) to read (iii) and for "30 miles per hour" read "25 miles per hour".

(xi) In clause 6 of Schedule II delete the words and figures "No. 16 B. W. G. (0.065 inches thick).....less than 5 inches" and instead insert the following:—"the following gauge thicknesses.

All outer shells were fitted, not thinner than No. 16 B.W.G. (0.065 inches thick).

Updraft generators.—The lower end of shell from the bottom to a point 12 inches above the grade, or to the top of the gas outlet whichever is the less not thinner than No. 11 B. W. G. (0.120 inches thick) remainder of shell not thinner than No. 16 B. W. G. (0.065 inches thick).

Downdraft generators.—The lower end of shell from the bottom to a point 12 inches above the fire grate, not thinner than No. 14 B. W. G. (0.083 inches thick) remainder of shell not thinner than No. 16 B. W. G. (0.065 inches thick).

Gross draft generators.—The lower end of shell from the bottom to a point 12 inches above the centre line of the tuyere, not thinner than No. 14 B. W. G. (0.083 inches thick) remainder of shell not thinner than No. 16 B. W. G. (0.065 inches thick".

(xii) In clause 2 of Schedule II delete the words and figures "No. 11 B. W. G. (0.120 inches thick). . . less than 4 bolts" and read " $\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick".

(xiii) Add the following as a new clause to Schedule II:—

"11 Water Tanks:—These shall be made of mild steel sheet or copper sheet material of a thickness not thinner than No. 20 B. W. G. (0.035 inches thick) and shall be provided with strainers for inlets and outlets and suitable arrangement for determining the water level".

By Order,

M. S. CHAKRABARTY,

Financial Assistant to the

Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, with your permission, I would like to slightly amend the motion standing in my name. This, I may add, is in accordance with the desire of some Honourable Members in this House.

Sir, I move:

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

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

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

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I have got an amendment

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is too late. The motion has been adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Ram Chandra (Secretary, Defence Department): Sir, with your permission I am going to make a slight change in the motion that stands in my name.

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 Defence Department on subjects other than Civil Defence for the financial year 1945-46."

I know that there is a desire expressed by some Honourable Members to have the number fixed at ten. I am suggesting eight by way of compromise and I hope they will agree, considering that for certain subjects, namely, civil defence and air raid precautions there is already a Standing Committee of the Legislature on which there are five members elected by this House.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): What is the scope of this Committee?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let me put the motion first. 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 Defence Department on subjects other than Civil Defence for the financial year 1945-46."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: There are two Committees already working in this Department and dealing with certain matters. What are the other subjects that this Committee will deal with?

Mr. Ram Chandra: It will deal with subjects like amenities for troops; welfare of troops, canteens, cantonments, requisitioning of land for military purposes, and so on.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): I have an amendment on the subject. Will you let me make a submission? The Honourable Member has moved that he wants advice on subjects other than Civil Defence. He obviously considers the advice which he will take from this Committee on matters concerning the welfare and amenities of troops. I want specific attention to be given by this Committee to matters which concern the life of the civil population through the activities of the troops.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I know that. At the same time the functions of the Committee have been defined in the Notification.

Mr. Manu Subedar: There are scandals in the contact of the military with the civil population. There are hundreds of problems arising out of requisitioning. Unless I get an assurance I want your permission to move this amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Standing Committee may take up this question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I have no assurance from the Defence Secretary.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Government Member can give no such assurance. I rule that this amendment is out of order.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): May I ask my Honourable friend a question. Is his Department responsible for policy relating to demobilisation questions? If so, will those questions come within the purview of this Committee?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Demobilisation is the concern of the War Department.

Sir F. E. James: Since when has that transfer been made? Normally speaking questions and correspondence relating to demobilisation have been dealt with by the Defence Department.

Mr. Ram Chandra: Demobilisation is the concern of the War Department. Questions relating to resettlement of ex-services personnel in civil life after the war will be dealt with by the Defence and Labour Departments.

Sir F. E. James: Then the question of the transfer of demobilised soldiers to civil life is dealt with by the Defence Department? I understood that the Reconstruction Committee dealing with that subject—resettlement or re-absorption into civil life—was presided over by the Honourable Member for Defence.

Mr. Ram Chandra: The question of resettlement will be dealt with by Labour or Defence Department.

Sir F. E. James: Do I understand that the responsibility for one of the most important questions relating to the transfer to civil life of the soldier—the question of where the responsibility lies—has not yet been decided?

Mr. Ram Chandra: It is under active consideration at the moment. There have been some developments.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am anxious not to be misunderstood for seeking to bring in my amendment. My complaint is this. The contact of troops with the civil population has created a large range of problems which may have been illustrated by the questions asked in this House and with regard to these problems the difficulty of the civil population is that they are subjects as much of the Central Government as of the Provincial Governments. The Provincial Governments act as the agents of the Central Government for this purpose. An illustration is the problem that has arisen out of requisitioning houses in Bombay recently.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member wants any information he can enquire.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am anxious that the Committee to be appointed should make it its particular concern to get information on those problems where the life of the civil population is affected and to secure redress, not merely by sympathy and courtesy which the Honourable the Defence Member has always given us, but by specific instructions to the Provincial Government concerned. I will take one case

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You can get the information you want. You cannot make a speech on the general administration on this motion.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): On a point of order. The Honourable Member is dealing with soldiers under the charge of the War Department which does not arise out of this question at all.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): I want to speak a word in support of this amendment.

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

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

[Mr. President.]

the Defence Department on subjects other than Civil Defence for the financial year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

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

	Date for nomination.	Date for election.
1. Standing Committee for the Department of Commerce	29th March.	3rd April.
2. Standing Committee for the Defence Department	29th March.	4th April.

The nominations for both the Committees will be received in the Notice Office up to 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Thursday, the 22nd March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies eleven nominations were received. Subsequently three Members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. A. G. Inskip, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, Sardar Sant Singh, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury, Mr. Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr. S. K. Hosmani and Mr. Saiyid Haidar Inaam to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to the Standing Finance Committee, namely, Mr. Abdul Qayyum, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Sani, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt, Mr. Manu Subedar, Mr. G. W. Tyson, Mr. H. A. Sathar, H. Essak Sait, Mr. Sami Venkatchelam Chetty, Major Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Mr. B. Das, Mr. Piare Lal Kureel and Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1944-45—contd.

DEMAND No. 33—POLICE—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now deal with the Demands for Supplementary Grants. I think that on Demand No. 33 some information was wanted by some Honourable Members.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): I regret, Sir, yesterday I did not notice the word 'non-agency' which is used here. It means ordinary police. Since about 1941 the Government of India have subsidised the Provinces to ensure that their police are brought up to the standard necessary for war. The amount was under-estimated last year, largely because there has been a dispute between the Central Government and the Madras Government as to the amount we should pay to the Madras Government and it has now been settled. This has necessitated the payment of two years arrears. Agency police we also pay as the police act as agents of the Government of India guarding the Government of India property, etc. We pay the whole cost of this police.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am glad, Sir, to know that the meaning of 'non-agency Police' is ordinary police. The original grant was 2,15,98,000. What is the basis on which they make this contribution to the police and may I also know what portion of that amount has been spent on agency police and may I also know whether they have considered the advisability, in view of the improved situation to reduce this cost of the police?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There is no extra demand for agency police. I do not know what the total cost is. The basis of the Government of India's contribution was that the maintenance of law and order is essential for the successful prosecution of the war. Police being a provincial subject and war being a Central subject it was considered fair—and necessary too—that the Provinces should be helped in maintaining the necessary standard. The cost has been reduced this year. The proportion paid has been reduced this year and the saving brought about by that reduction has been set off against the under-estimate of the actual cost.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,69,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 85—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman (Finance Member): I beg to move: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 86—SURVEY OF INDIA.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: I beg to move: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 32,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Survey of India'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 32,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Survey of India'."

Mr. M. Ananthasayan Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am not able to understand this item in spite of the explanation that has been appended to it. The original grant voted was Rs. 1,000 and Non-voted Rs. 7,86,000. If the Defence Department has not purchased during the year as many maps as expected, am I to take it that the number of maps being less the cost is also less? How does it arise that a deficit of 82 and odd lakhs has to be met by a supplementary demand?

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): I confess it is a bit startling when a Department has a voted budget grant of only Rs. 1,000 and supplementary demand is made which comes up to nearly 83 lakhs. It is, however, if the House will believe me, only a matter of accounting arrangements. It does not represent any extra expenditure over what we anticipated in the budget: as a matter of fact, there has been less expenditure. We budgeted for a recovery from the Defence Services of Rs. one crore and sixteen lakhs for maps supplied but actually owing to changes in the demand for maps, for operational reasons, I presume, we actually supplied maps to the extent of Rs. 34.48 lakhs less than we had expected. That represents a reduction of Rs. 34.48 lakhs in our recovery from the War Department and it also represents a similar saving for the War Department. That is mentioned in the first paragraph of the note under this Demand.

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

The real point however is that dealt with in the later part of the same note, which shows that we are faced with a big adverse book entry resulting from a change in the way in which the accounts are now presented.

What happened was this. At last year's meeting of the Public Accounts Committee the Auditor General drew attention to the extraordinary position that arose when a Department which has a very considerable expenditure on staff, materials and machinery, ended up the financial year then under review with a "minus" expenditure balance. That arose from the fact that the Survey of India is producing to order a vast number of maps for the Defence Services which are paid for by the War Department at a flat rate. As it is an inter-departmental matter, inside the Central Government, to avoid swelling the budget in two Departments, we have been taking these receipts as a deduct entry in the Survey of India budget. In ordinary times maps are produced as the Survey of India think they will be required by the Departments and the public; they are put into stock and receipts from sales of maps from stock are credited to a "revenue" head; but when the Survey of India, as in these days, does a special job of work for another Department, receipts are taken as a minus entry in the budget of the Survey for that year. Now, this practice, which is in accordance with existing accounts rules, causes no trouble in peace time. But in war time the whole work of the Survey Department is production of maps for the War Department, and so we were taking as "minus expenditure" very large sums of money in excess of actual expenditure. For the current year we budgeted on the same basis as the matter had not been settled; but, as I said, the Auditor General had raised this point before the Public Accounts Committee, and the Public Accounts Committee asked the Auditor General to look into it and see whether this was really a suitable arrangement in present conditions. The Auditor General has advised that we should for the period of the present emergency credit all these receipts from the War Department to a revenue head and not take them as a deduct entry. The budget having been framed on the old system we have been suddenly deprived of the recoveries which we had made from the War Department and which we were relying on to cover our expenditure when we budgeted for a mere token expenditure of Rs. 1,000. These recoveries have now all gone into a revenue head—Miscellaneous XXXVI,—and, consequently, we have got an expenditure of Rs. 86,26,000 against which we only have Rs. 53 lakhs voted. It was expected that the remainder would be met by crediting recoveries as a minus expenditure. As the recovery is now all to be taken away and credited as revenue, the difference that has now got to be found by a supplementary grant from this Honourable House is Rs. 86,26,000 less Rs. 53,44,000 already voted, and that is Rs. 32,82,000. As I said, it is not extra expenditure; it is merely a change in the form of accounting.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think it is desirable that in future the report should contain adequate explanation on points like this so that much time of the House will be saved.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 32,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Survey of India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 41—ARCHAEOLOGY.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Archæology'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Archæology'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I find that an Archaeological Training School has been started from the 1st October 1944. It is new expenditure, and such expenditure ought to have been brought before the Standing Finance Committee. I should like to know why it was not brought before the Standing Finance Committee. Secondly we would like to have some information about the school itself.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is a very small matter. The excavations at Taxila have been going on for a very long time. The Director General of Archaeology has to go there himself to supervise the excavations. He decided to utilise that site to train the students, who however are not paid for by the Government of India. They watch and assist in the excavations. Financially it is quite a small affair. Probably almost the only expenditure was—an officer for six months who was specially brought to supervise the work and to assist the Director General of Archaeology when he was there, and a certain amount as Travelling Allowance for another officer who worked in an honorary capacity. The cost is scattered about under several sub-heads and I am not sure what the total amount was; but it must have been very much below the limit that is ordinarily taken as a criterion for bringing matters before the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it a temporary school?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is a temporary school.

Sir K. B. Jinaraja Hegde (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In the demands for grants Rs. 49,000 has been set apart for explorations. It is not known where these explorations were carried out. I would like to know in this connection who settles the sites for excavations, whether these are settled by the Member concerned or by any Committee for that purpose.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Excavations in this particular case are almost entirely at Taxila, but the general question where excavations will be carried out has been left in the past in the main to the Director General of Archaeology. We have now armed the Department and the Director General with a very influential and expert Advisory Committee on which this Honourable House is represented. I have not the least doubt that in future the excavation programme will be considered by the Director General of Archaeology in the light of advice given by this Committee.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Archæology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 45—MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Medical Services'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I want to ask a question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The motion has been put and carried.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: While you were reading, if I asked, it would be interruption. There must be some interval. It is really difficult for us to intervene. I tell you honestly and frankly.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member has anything to complain against the Chair, he must bring up a proper motion.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no such thing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): My submission is this. We do not want to make a complaint against the Chair. I think we are entitled to make a suggestion and also to request, and the request is

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I did not know that any Honourable Member wanted to speak.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You were going so fast, you did not allow any interval at all between one motion and another. It was not possible to ask any question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I paused, as usual but I did not hear that any Honourable Member wanted to speak.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We could not make ourselves heard because of the fear that it might be interpreted as an interruption.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well. We will go on to the next demand.

DEMAND No. 46—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Public Health'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Public Health'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Just a question, Sir. What is this Singur practice field?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Singur is a large village area, some miles out of Calcutta on the Serampore side, where the late Mr. Surendra Nath Mullick founded a dispensary. The Government of Bengal took considerable interest in this area which is normally an unhealthy area; but they have recently made arrangements with the Government of India for handing over the health arrangements of a certain area round Singur to the All India Institute of Hygiene Public Health as a practice ground; and there they have tried out, I believe with a great deal of benefit to the inhabitants, all kinds of public health schemes and nursing and so on.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they any such practice fields in any other part of the country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, because the All India Institute is located in Calcutta.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 47—AGRICULTURE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Agriculture'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Agriculture'."

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I should like to know, if I may, the exact position of the locust menace at the present moment. I know that last year there was a great danger from locusts and that the Government of India, to my personal knowledge, deputed some of its officers to the Jodhpur State to fight the menace; and I understand that they did very good work. I am not sure if the menace no more exists, and I should like to know if Government is taking any further steps in that matter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I find that apart from the locust menace fighting, the major portion of the supplementary grant is composed of one crore, which they want to allot to the Sugar Fund. I see from the original provision for this grant that for the year 1943-44 Rs. 40 lakhs have been contributed but for the current year nothing has been contributed. I hope that this money comes out of the excise that has been levied on the sugar industry.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the fund has been spent by the Sugar Committee or how this Government is regulating the expenditure of that amount? May I also know whether this money is spent for the development of the sugar industry or for the development of the sugar cane agricultural industry? I find in the same grant, page 126 of the original demand, a series of grants for research in agricultural schemes. I would like to know whether Government is proposing to make a similar grant for the cultivation of sugar cane in this country; and in this matter I would suggest one or two things. One real scheme for the development of sugar industry is the proper utilisation of molasses and the waste products of this industry. Experiments have been made, I suppose, for turning out spirit out of these molasses. May I know whether the Government have taken any active steps in that direction and have succeeded in making something out of these molasses? I know in Mysore a certain percentage of spirit is manufactured out of molasses and experiments were made in Bihar and United Provinces; we would like to know how this money has been spent and how these industries have been helped by this fund.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, this fund is a very important matter. I am glad this money is being set apart for it, but as my Honourable friend Mr. Chettiar has asked, the most important thing is for what purpose this money is going to be spent? There was a time when Sir James Grigg was the Finance Member; he wanted to lay special stress on the development of marketing facilities for sugarcane producers, so that their interests, as against the interests of the sugar manufacturers, may be protected. In fact when he proposed to double the sugar excise duty he promised on the floor of this House with the concurrence of his colleague, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, at that time, to set apart five lakhs of rupees per annum as a special fund for the development and improvement of co-operative marketing facilities for sugarcane growers. We have not had any opportunity of knowing from the Government what they had done with the money thus set apart for that particular purpose, how much of it was really utilised for the development of co-operative marketing facilities and how much was still outstanding and to what purpose it has been utilised. We would like to know whether one of the most important objectives for which this fund was set up will be the improvement of marketing facilities for peasants and especially in the co-operative direction. Only yesterday, my Honourable friend the Finance Member was deploring the inability of our peasants to organise themselves in a co-operative fashion, so that they could raise their bargaining capacity in the marketing of their produce as against these merchants and manufacturers. This is a very important matter. I hope the Honourable Finance Member before he leaves this country will give some attention to this particular matter and see that this fund will be utilised specially for this purpose also.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa complained about the locusts. In every district, in every taluk almost, the Government have established agricultural farms with some agricultural demonstrators who are in charge of those farms and with some staff to advise the agriculturist and also the horticulturists, as to how to remove this trouble of locusts and other insect pests. But there are huge complaints in the country that these demonstrators are not at all regularly going to the ryots when they are wanted, or giving them advice.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all sorts of grievances on this motion.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: These are the grievances of the ryots in the country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is not the occasion to ventilate grievances like those.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: These are the facts. The ryots are complaining that the demonstrators are not going to them regularly and giving advice and when they go, they charge them, instead of giving free advice.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all that.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: I request the Honourable Member to take proper steps to advise the Agricultural Department to ask the demonstrators of agricultural farms to go to the ryots often and given them free advice in respect of these things.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: I would like to know whether any contribution was made to the agricultural colleges where research is being carried on in the matter of the sugar industry.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: First of all, Sir, as regards locusts. We were warned about 2½ years ago by the organisation which watches locusts, an organisation in which Russia and the Middle East and ourselves are very interested, that all over the Middle East and India we were entering upon a very serious locust cycle—these pests come in cycles—and we were warned that for four or five years we might expect a very serious locust infestation. I am happy to say that with the co-operation of the provinces in which locusts perform their depredations and the States similarly mustered we have been able during the last three years to wipe out our own locusts, so that there has been practically no damage to the kharif crops in India during those years. The House may be interested to learn that last year, just 15 months ago, the Middle East Organisation established a rather elaborate post down on the borders of India and Iran with the idea of trying out new methods of destroying the swarms of locusts which ordinarily at that time of the year should have passed from India along the funnel between the mountains of Afghanistan and the sea into Iran and Arabia. Though they kept their organisation for some months, no swarms materialised, for the fact was that they had been destroyed in India. We hoped that after the 2½ or 3 years' successful work that we had done in India we had cleared the danger period; but we have during the last six weeks received a solemn warning that organisations in the North Eastern part of Africa and in Arabia are not nearly as efficient as our organisation here and, further, that the season there has been extremely favourable for locust breeding: we have in fact been warned to expect a big locust invasion from outside India this year. It has not turned up yet but there is no reason to suppose that it will not come across the Red Sea in due course. We have therefore to keep our locust warning organisation intact and to keep our machinery, which is very largely provincial, and also the States machinery intact to meet an invasion from outside, though there is practically nothing left of our own locusts in India.

As regards what has been said about agricultural demonstrators if the Honourable Member will give me details and if they are in fact Central Government employees, I will look into the matter but I rather think it is probably a provincial matter.

Reference has been made to the provision of one crore in this supplementary Demand. I understand that the Honourable the Finance Member will explain to the House how that crore arises but Honourable Members have perhaps mixed that up with quite a different matter—the Sugar Excise Fund—which was created in the time of Sir James Grigg, as has been mentioned, and perhaps as the matter has been raised I had better very briefly explain that Sir James Grigg did at that time say that the proceeds of the fund would be set aside for the improvement of marketing facilities for sugar cane. But he did not say that the fund would always be devoted to that purpose and as a matter of fact about a year or 18 months later all the Governments concerned were warned that the Central Government reserved the right after a period of

years—I think it was five—to alter the use to which that fund could be put, the more so as a good deal of work was being done by some of the provinces in the meantime of establishing marketing facilities for cane. Now the proceeds of the Sugar Excise Fund go in the first place to keep up the Imperial Council of Sugar Technology at Cawnpore; next for properly co-ordinated schemes of sugar research and cognate activities conducted under the aegis of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research; and the balance is available for grants to Provincial Governments for schemes ancillary to the I. C. A. R. schemes designed to test the results of those schemes in particular years. I will leave the matter of the one crore for the Honourable the Finance Member to explain, because it is in fact an entirely different subject.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As regards the emergence of this one crore fund, the position is that in the course of the year it was decided to increase the maximum price for cane and that meant an increase in the maximum price of sugar but since the price for cane had already been paid in the previous season, if the maximum price for sugar were increased, it would give an uncovenanted advantage to the producers of sugar, to those at any rate who would not have paid the new maximum for cane. In order to remove that uncovenanted profit from the pockets of the private producer, we levied a special excise at that time and placed the money into a fund. We had not decided exactly what we should do with that fund at the time we made that levy. We had only made up our minds that it is entirely unfair that the manufacturer of sugar should get away with that advantage. It has since been decided, and there is a note on page 15 of the Explanatory Memorandum to the General Budget, that the fund will be utilised mainly to finance schemes for the improvement of the sugar industry which the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee is being asked to prepare for the consideration of the Government. So that for the moment, the money remains in the special fund and Government are awaiting the recommendation of this committee as to the manner in which it could most suitably be employed.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Am I to understand that there are two funds which are intended for the development of the sugar industry?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is the ordinary Sugar Excise Fund which contains a portion of the normal sugar excise collections and there is this special and quite temporary fund which arose in the circumstances I have mentioned.

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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of ‘Agriculture’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 48—IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of ‘Imperial Council of Agricultural Research’.”

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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of ‘Imperial Council of Agricultural Research’.”

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I find from the original demand that there are certain grants for research schemes financed out of this grant. I also find under the head, agriculture, that there are many grants for research. I also understand that many of them are worked under I. C. A. R. May I know why these have been classified separately? Apart from this technical point, the real point I wish to raise is this. The conclusions arrived at after research work made by this Council are all published in English. I am not sure whether all of them are published. I would suggest to the Government

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

that it is high time that they be published in Indian languages so that they may be useful to the ordinary ryots in the village. Attempts were recently made by certain Governments to come into closer contact with the peasants. As it is most people do not know what is happening. Many people think that the money spent on this Department is a huge waste. While I do not want to go into the merits of that opinion, I suggest that attempts should be made to broadcast the findings of researches made by this Department in Indian languages so that they may be useful to the villager and generally to all the people in the country.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, the I. C. A. R., of course, has its own governing body which comes to its own decisions. But I will commend the suggestion of the Honourable Member to the I. C. A. R. that appropriate literature in Indian languages should be disseminated in villages, if in fact it has not already been done. It may be that it is done already.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Are any annual reports published by I. C. A. R.?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, they are published.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if there is any constitutional difficulty for the Honourable the Finance Member to resume the earlier practice of making lump sum grants to I. C. A. R. I think it was formerly five lakhs. I am not quite sure of the amount.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My impression is that the amounts which are provided from general revenues for I. C. A. R. are considerably more than five lakhs. The scale of expenditure is certainly not less than what it was in the days to which my Honourable friend refers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My point is this. What I understand to be the case is that alterations have been made after I have been sent to jail. I understood that the proceeds of a particular cess imposed upon agriculture—exports or something like these—are being placed at the disposal of I. C. A. R. and the I. C. A. R. is expected to be dependent upon its expenditure for this revenue. Apart from this revenue, may I know whether there is any constitutional difficulty now for the Government of India to resume their former practice of making lump sum grants from the general revenue to I. C. A. R.?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is no constitutional difficulty but actually the present method of financing the Council is preferred by the Council itself and by the participating Governments. It is not merely a matter in which the Central Government is concerned, there are Provincial Governments and also the people of the States which are concerned with this council. The present method of financing its activities has been considered to be more appropriate and to be an improvement on former method. My Honourable friend may have a different view, but that is a matter of opinion.

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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of ‘Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 49—AGRICULTURAL MARKETING.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of ‘Agricultural Marketing.’”

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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of ‘Agricultural Marketing.’”

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I wish to make a suggestion in regard to this also. The reports of the Agricultural Marketing Department are extremely useful in regard to the marketing of agricultural commodities. The sale of these reports will be a paying proposition. These reports or brief summaries thereof should

be translated in as many Indian languages as possible and made available to the peasants. I know that some of these reports have already been published in some Indian languages. But I should like them to be published in as many languages as possible. Unfortunately to the earlier query of Mr. Chettiar, there was no answer and I hope the House will be furnished with an answer to this as well as the previous question.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): On page 22 reference is made to Sann Hemp grading scheme and expenditure in connection therewith. What is this scheme?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know of how many articles are the Government of India taking charge for marketing?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Taking the last question first, I am afraid I cannot answer off-hand. I do not handle this work from day to day. As regards Sann Hemp, I may say it has a very valuable market in U. K. If we are to secure that market and keep it after the war, then it is necessary that we should maintain a definite standard of the product for export. Therefore we put up a scheme under what we call the Agricultural Marketing Act to grade Sann Hemp, certainly for export, and to ensure that the standard is maintained. This present Demand has reference to the Inspectorate set up for that purpose. The present inspectorate is not good enough and we want to improve the quality of the inspectorate and it costs a little more money. As regards the publication of marketing reports in Indian languages; I shall certainly examine the possibility of having them translated into more languages than at present. I am afraid I did not catch the other point raised,—about classification of research schemes.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Agricultural Marketing'." The motion was adopted.

"DEMAND No. 51—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I wish to raise two points. I am glad this Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research is being developed. Till now, the training of students at this Institute has not been developed as well as it ought to be. Far fewer students have been taken so much so that the country has felt keenly the shortage of trained people especially during the last six years. Now they propose to take only 24 students for next year, 12 for nutritional research and 12 for poultry research. This number is far too small. I should like the Government to do all they can to increase the total number of students to be trained there and also to give them facilities for boarding and lodging. Then, Sir, another thing that I should like to know is this. They say that they are providing for an increase in the number of animals required for the manufacture of increased quantities of biological products. I should like to know how they do it. Do they kill these animals in order to get something out of them, or do they simply keep them there and examine their constitution or their lives and thus make their researches?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: As regards students I accept the reproof of my Honourable friend that we have not trained enough students in the past, but we are trying to remedy it now. We fully realise the need for training students at both our Agricultural and our Veterinary Institutes.

As regards the point about animals, it is rather a technical one. I know that so far as research is concerned animals do of course sometimes die because

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

in research you have got to try to give an animal the disease that you are trying to prevent if you are to try out your vaccine or serum: and you must of course have as "controls" a certain number which you inject but on which you do not try your serum and so naturally there is a certain wastage of animals in the latter case. But I do not think in a matter of manufacturing vaccines and sera animals are actually killed at all. I think these animals may in time become a bit worn out but that they are retained alive.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if the sera are first tried on cattle or on guinea-pigs or some other animals? If the procedure is that the moment you discover a serum you inject a costly animal and it might mean a serious loss as you are not sure of the consequences.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Of course it varies with the nature of the research. They have large quantities of guinea-pigs and other small animals there; and as far as they possibly can, they try the stuff out on these. But there comes a time when they must try it on the cattle and poultry themselves—poultry, I may add is now a very important feature of the Institute.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if there is...

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on like that. If there are any suggestions that he wants to make he should make them at one time. There cannot be more than one speech.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 52—INDUSTRIES.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Industries'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Industries'."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, on page 23 of the memoranda we find that Rs. 27,000 is going to be spent on the Indian School of Mines at Dhanbad, of which Rs. 13,400 is meant for Other Charges and Rs. 13,600 for Allowances, etc. Are these allowances to be paid to the teachers or professors of that School of Mines? There is no mention of that anywhere.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, we would also like to have some information about the Indian Industrial Mission to Australia. Has the Honourable Member received any information as to what they are doing, when they are expected back and whether they have been provided with all possible facilities by the Government of Australia to do their work? I should also like to have a rough estimate as regards the expenditure on this Mission, because that is not specifically given.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): I also want to know how this delegation was composed and whether applications were invited from them.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I am glad that this opportunity has been given to me to explain the position. It is only about a fortnight back that I received a letter from the members of the delegation from Australia, and I must say that they have been given the utmost assistance, help and support in their mission. So far as travel is concerned, they have got a special plane placed at their disposal. There is an official photographer, publicity arrangements

have been specially made, typists and office assistants have been given; and I have seen that within three hours of their arrival at an Australian port their photographs were flashed throughout Australia. In fact it is very interesting to see the manner in which our delegates have been treated in the matter of comforts and other arrangements.

As regards estimates of expenditure, they have gone at their own cost, but there are certain incidental expenses which will come to about Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000. Of course we cannot be sure about these incidental expenses.

I do not know whether applications are always taken in the matter of selecting candidates for these delegations. We select them, and sometimes we want to send certain special types of delegates. Australia and New Zealand have a certain character of their own in their industries and agriculture; and we try as far as possible to get the benefit of advice from men who can go and see things for themselves. I shall be prepared to place more materials when the delegation comes back and we have a report from them.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Can we expect a report after their return?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If that is needed, I shall be glad to give it.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 46,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Industries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 53—SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, in the note we find this:

"To cover the increase in expenditure resulting from the expansion of the activities of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research from the normal grant of Rs. 10 lakhs has been increased to Rs. 15 lakhs during 1944-45."

But on page 144 of the budget estimates for 1944-45 I find that the sum provided is 20 lakhs, although in the two previous years it was 10 lakhs. I should like to know whether this is the same thing as the Committee appointed by the Commerce Department under Sir Shanmukham Chetty; and if so whether it is a temporary or a permanent body.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I should like to know whether this Bureau gets any income from its inquiries or its publications or from any other source. I was given to understand some time back by a friend that this more than pays its own way. If that is so, it cannot be that Government provides for 20 lakhs in one big demand and another 5 lakhs in a supplementary demand. If this Council is to be provided with 25 lakhs I should like to know how it compares with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research which is not given the same facilities and which, on the other hand, is expected to pay its own way by grants received from various Provincial Governments and States and also from a sort of special cess that has been imposed for the purpose, in order that it may be maintained. Does this mean that Government wish to pursue two different policies, one in the matter of agricultural research and another with regard to industrial research? So far as industrial research is concerned, are they anxious to spend money from the general revenues? Of course I have no objection—that is the right thing to do. But why should they not be anxious to do the same thing in regard to industrial research?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I want to draw the attention of Government to one thing which is holding back the progress of this country a great deal in this respect. It is obvious that unless you pay your scientists decently, you cannot expect them to do proper work. I want to know on what basis are you paying to your best qualified scientists? People go to England; spend several years there in doing research work; and when they come back to India, you offer them two to three hundred rupees per month in your Research Institutes, and then you expect them to do good work. And you also expect to attract best qualified people to your Institutes. How is it possible? You are prepared to pay high salaries to men who sit in competitions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is raising a general question of policy.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I am drawing the attention of Government to the fact that the salaries which have been allowed are very very inadequate, and I am suggesting that if Government really wish to attract the proper type of research workers, they should be prepared to give proper salaries—certainly not less than what an ordinary graduate without any special qualifications who sits in a competitive examination can get. The present scales of pay for research workers are very discouraging indeed. I hope the Government will look into this matter, which, is very important because the progress of a country depends on the contribution which its research workers are able to make in the various branches of science.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development): With regard to the point raised by Mr. Chettiar, besides the ten lakhs grant which is received by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Mr. Chettiar might remember that a lump sum grant of one crore of rupees was approved of by the Assembly for the purpose of starting national laboratories of different kinds in the country and out of that an additional provision of ten lakhs of rupees has been made during the year under consideration for expenditure on the national laboratories. We are proposing to establish about five Scientific laboratories: the National Chemical Laboratory; the National Physical Laboratory; the Metallurgical Laboratory; the Glass Research Laboratory; and the Fuel Laboratory.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it all under the Planning Department?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is under the Planning Department. Agricultural Research has been kept by the E., H. and L. Department.

As regards the point raised by Prof. Ranga about the difference in treatment, that is only a question of how the expenditure is met. But I may say that a suggestion has been made by a committee appointed under the chairmanship of Sir Shanmukham Chetty that a cess should be levied also on industries to meet the very large expenditure on industrial and scientific research that might accrue in the future. That is a matter under consideration but I hope that my Honourable friend will agree that the amount which we are now spending on scientific research in the country is a mere bagatelle and that very much larger sums of money will require to be spent on scientific research *pari passu* with the progress of the country.

Sir, I sympathize with the point raised by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, regarding the inadequacy of the salaries of scientific workers. That is a point which is engaging my attention and we hope to make some improvement in this regard.

As regards the revenues received by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, a certain amount is received by way of royalty on the discoveries and inventions made by the Council, but it does not amount to anything very much and our idea is not so much to make money out of these things but to give out our more useful research for general use without thinking so much of the monetary side.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: There is a provision.

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, it is a very important point. There is a provision for 20 lakhs already and only 10 lakhs has been given.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It was explained by my Honourable colleague that what we were referring to was the ordinary annual recurring provision of ten lakhs. That has been increased to 15 lakhs. But in addition to that, in the year in question ten lakhs has been provided from the one-crore scheme for the purpose of these various research institutions, making the total 25 lakhs.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 56—BROADCASTING

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

Mr. G. W. Tyson (Bengal: European): In regard to this supplementary grant No. 56, under parts A and B under section II, I should briefly like to elicit some information from the Honourable Member in charge. At the same time, I would like to pay a tribute, sincerely and gladly, to the very great improvement in the quality of All-India Radio broadcasts from Delhi, both as to their power and as to their contents. The position in the Provinces however is considerably different. I see here, under B, a certain provision is made for Broadcasting Stations which, I presume, include the provinces. What I would like to impress upon the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting is the extremely unsatisfactory terms of service of employees in provincial Broadcasting Stations. The rates of pay and the absence of any security of contract, or assurance of long-term service, seems to me to be militating against developing a real broadcasting service. I should like to hear what he has to say on that subject, and to ask him if he does not think, if he is going to attract personnel of the best quality, the terms on which employment is offered in provincial stations should not be improved.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I have a cut motion on this Demand, but I am not moving because there is a little confusion about that.

Sir, I want to invite the attention of the House to the remarks made by the Standing Finance Committee on this Demand:

"The Committee approved the proposal but desired to have an opportunity of reviewing the whole of the expenditure of this Department."

The expenditure of this Department has been increasing by leaps and bounds—the House knows about it. I want to place the figures before the House. The budget estimate for 1944-45 for this department was Rs. 50,03,000 but the revised estimate went up to Rs. 71,07,000. The budget estimates for this year is Rs. 93,83,000. These figures will show to the House the staggering rate at which this Department is expanding. We were told that the policy is set by the Department itself. The only check that we in this House can have is through the Finance Department and the Finance Department is concerned only with regard to the expenditure. I want some check with regard to expansion also. After all where is this expansion to stop? The expansion has been out of all proportion and we do not know whether the

[Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait.]

expansion is necessary and whether it is doing any good at all. In a previous report of the Finance Committee it will be found that when this question of expansion came up before the Committee and a demand of Rs. 26 lakhs was placed before the Committee, one of the members declared categorically that even if the money that is demanded was granted his reaction was that he did not expect any better service than at present. That is a fact. The feeling is that a great deal of money is being squandered in this Department. I wish this House to have some effective check so far as this expansion itself is concerned. The Department, I believe, is willing to have some sort of enquiry held into its activities. I am not sure whether they have agreed. I think the House will be well advised in insisting on some sort of check and enquiry. I just wanted to place these facts before the House and I hope the House will take note of it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For a very long time we have been demanding a separate broadcasting station for the Andhras but nothing has been done except holding out some sort of hope that in the post-war plans this would be included. Broadcasting has been consuming more and more money and they say they want more because of the increased activities of the Department and so on. But these increased activities do not seem to be getting us anywhere. The Andhras are supposed to be dependent on the Trichinopoly station and the Madras station. But Trichinopoly is a Tamil station and Madras is a bi-lingual station. There is no station at all for the Andhras and they number more than two crores of people. They deserve a separate broadcasting station and we do not want to wait till post-war times. Immediate steps should be taken to have a separate station for them. The necessary materials may be purchased and brought from abroad. After all they are making provision for so many things in spite of the paucity of shipping accommodation and shipping space. For example the contemplated import of consumers' goods. I cannot associate myself with my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson in the compliment that he has sought to pay in an indirect manner to this Department. My experience of the radio services by this Department is very limited and therefore I cannot very well say that their broadcasting service is really as good as it ought to be. But we know that there is a considerable amount of discontent in the country about the activities of this Department. Only to-day and yesterday in the papers we find that the All India Hindu . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all that now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Therefore, Sir, while not associating myself with my Honourable friend in paying any sort of compliment but while associating myself with my Honourable friend, Mr. Essak Sait, that there should be an early opportunity taken by this House to appoint a Committee to go into the growth of, and the manner in which the money is spent by, this Department. I request the Honourable Member in charge of this to give a satisfactory answer to our query in regard to the Andhra Broadcasting station.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I want to oppose this grant because no broadcasting station has been given to my province though I have been asking for it for a number of years.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Sir, hopes were held out to us . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is 1-15. The Honourable Member can continue his speech after lunch.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. K. C. Neogy (one of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The House will now resume discussion of the motion under Demand No. 56.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Sir, hopes were held out to us on the floor of this House about a Broadcasting Station for the Province of Sind and in the last Advisory Committee of the Information and Broadcasting Department the Honourable Member in charge informed the Committee that he had in his possession every thing except accommodation. He said that they could not get any suitable accommodation at Karachi. It was in reply to a question by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai or . . .

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): I said, Sir, everything except equipments.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is every thing without the equipment?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I remember, the equipment in Madras which was being shifted was proposed to be transferred to Karachi. That was what we were told in the Advisory Committee meeting and were also informed that there was no co-operation from the Provincial Government. I wrote a letter to the Provincial Government and I sent a copy of it to the Information and Broadcasting Department informing that the Provincial Government was willing to co-operate and give every assistance in the matter but nothing was done. I may inform the House that in the meantime the Americans have built up their own broadcasting station at Karachi. They started it within a month and here our own Government in India. . .

Mr. Sri Prakasa: How did they get the license?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: You may ask the Department. The Honourable Member says that it is a military or defence broadcasting station but I have never heard anything else except American music programme from that station. Sir, I hope the Honourable Member will consider our case and give us a Broadcasting station at a very early date. We have no station in that zone except the Lahore station, although Madras has three stations. I hope the Honourable Member will consider our claims prior to any other.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Mr. Chairman, it is one of the many tricks which the Executive always plays by setting up a discussion on larger and larger expenditure with the object of avoiding criticism with respect to expenditure already incurred. We were dealing with the supplementary grant for nine lakhs ten thousand under Broadcasting and we started with the criticism that this Department has grown beyond all proportion and that there was absolutely no check over the expenditure of this Department. No doubt in the interval claims for this Province and that Province have intervened and now I find that the Honourable the Leader of the House is chuckling at the manner in which the discussion is taking place. Just to pull it from that direction to its original direction, I must express my astonishment at the manner in which the expenditure is being incurred by this Department and this is not the first time I gave expression to a similar observation with regard particularly to this Department. Moreover there are absolutely no details whatsoever as to the extra services that are added to this Department in order that this additional staff became necessary and therefore additional expenditure was incurred. The description which he has given is far too meagre to give us any idea of any additional useful service that has been done by the Broadcasting Department during the course of the year. In fact, I think the Honourable the Finance Member would welcome an opportunity of the advice and the assistance of a committee of this House in order to scrutinise the expenditure of this Department particularly. It is stated, apart from the dearness allowance and honoraria that are given as a result of a general resolution passed during the year, there has been an increase of staff itself. How many persons were engaged, what is their pay and why has it become necessary that these people should be employed under this Department? What is the additional news service or even the music service that is added to the present programmes of the Broadcasting Department? I wish the Honourable the Leader of the House would take the earliest opportunity

[Mr Sami Venkatachalam Chetty.]

to explain and so far as the claims of such Provinces as have not got broadcasting stations are concerned, I wish to say that that is entirely a different matter and they would certainly be entitled to press for such extensions of stations when the time comes.

But since the question has arisen I wish to say a few words with regard to the claims of the Telugu districts of Madras Province for a broadcasting station. That was a matter which was promised to these districts long ago, at any rate, simultaneously with the installation of a broadcasting station at Trichy. My Honourable friend Prof. Ranga is not quite accurate in saying that Madras should be made essentially a Tamil broadcasting station. Nor is it in vogue. It is in fact serving all the languages that are prevalent in Madras Province. It includes Malayalam, and Canarese also. Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Canarese programmes are being broadcast from Madras station. I think that should continue as it is. If anything, until such time as the installation of a new broadcasting station in the Telugu Districts the balance may be tilted in favour of Telugu a little more than it is at present in Madras. But if a separate station is given to the Telugu Districts then I think a perfect equality should be observed so far as broadcasting in Madras is concerned. It must till then continue to be poly-lingual. To that extent I endorse the views of my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga.

In any case, the responsibility of the Honourable the Leader of the House to justify this increase in expenditure is very grave upon him and whatever might be the observations made in regard to the utility of broadcasting stations in each province, it is his proper duty to explain to the House most convincingly that this additional expenditure was necessary.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Chairman, I want to say a word or two on this subject. Some-time ago in connection with a Resolution on broadcasting in this country I had something to say which was purely of a technical nature. I feel that when the question of multiplication of broadcasting stations is now being considered, the Honourable Member in charge of the Department should first of all satisfy himself with the best technical advice in the matter. The one question which is of paramount importance in setting up new broadcasting stations in different parts of the country is that in no case should this be done without a proper consideration of the surroundings of the locality, where such stations are proposed to be set up. There are such technical matters as the receptivity of the soil with regard to electro-magnetic waves. These are technical matters which should be very carefully considered and the mere fact that a particular province wants a broadcasting station should not by itself be considered a sufficient justification for the establishment of it in that locality.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon said that he wanted a broadcasting station at Karachi. I do myself feel that every province should have a broadcasting station, I am in thorough sympathy with the demand, but my point is that it might well be from a technical point of view that Karachi may not be suitable for a broadcasting station while Hyderabad or even Sukkur may be. There may be real technical difficulties. Those who are regular listeners to Indian broadcasts will agree that Indian broadcast transmitters are so operated and electro-magnetic wave currents are thrown in such a manner that they very often collide or overlap and the result is that you hear a station located in a distant place, but not one near you.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The station may be anywhere as long as it is in Sind.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: My point is a purely technical one. In a case like this the technical aspects must be thoroughly gone into. I am myself of the opinion that the way its expansion has gone on in this country has not been a success. That is my point. There may be a variety of considerations. First of all, the conditions of the surroundings where the broadcasting station is set up; secondly, the nature of the transmitter; for instance 1½ K. W.

transmitter might have served in the days gone by, but the modern tendency is to have a transmitter of 5 K.W. at least. We should be thankful to the Honourable Member in charge that he has provided the Delhi Station with a very powerful transmitter, I think it is the second most powerful transmitter in the East.

An Honourable Member: It is the first.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I was under the impression that it was the second. Before you set up a broadcasting station in any province first of all make a thorough scientific survey of the locality where you want to instal it. Secondly, consider what kind of transmitter you are going to put up. It will serve no useful purpose if you start with a low power transmitter. It is better to wait for some time more before you can get a really powerful transmitter which can give efficient service.

There is another matter, which I want to stress in this connection. I personally feel that it is time that Government should provide adequate facilities for rural broadcasting. I raised this question on one occasion in the Public Accounts Committee, and I am very thankful to Sir Jeremy Raisman for his very sympathetic attitude in that connection. I publicly acknowledge it today. Now that he is going away I hope the new Finance Member will take the matter up and will help the Honourable Member in charge of this Department in finding money for this purpose. Rural broadcasting is of the utmost importance. Rural folks cannot afford to have expensive sets. These days the prices of radio sets have gone up so much that it is not within the means of most people to have them. This question will have to be seriously taken up.

Allied to this is another matter which I also mentioned in the Public Accounts Committee, it is that the Department should set up extensive and intensive research in the direction of manufacture of cheap radio sets, so that they may be readily available to the rural population. The Department should explore all possibilities of manufacturing in India cheap radio sets which will be within the easy reach of people of ordinary means in this country. I will again stress that earnest attention will have to be paid to rural areas. Where people cannot afford to buy, Government will have to provide free sets out of the vast sums of money which we are spending in this Department.

A point was raised by my friend, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty, and I think rightly. If a province like Andhra gets a station Telugu will play an increasingly important role, but that should not mean that all other languages should be shut out. Madras and Trichinopoly stations will broadcast in all the four languages of the Province. So long as Canarese and Malayalees do not get their own stations, their needs will also have to be catered for. Therefore, if you are going to have another station in Andhra—I may say I am in sympathy with the claims of Andhra—this matter will have to be kept in view. Every broadcasting station in India is ultimately controlled by the centre, and it should therefore be its policy that the broadcasting stations render useful service to the people of India as a whole.

With these observations I support the motion.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I had no mind to take part in this debate, but when I see other Members speaking for their respective provinces I think I should not allow my province of Bihar to go unrepresented. I was under the impression that the Honourable Member for Broadcasting comes from Bihar and so Bihar would have a station, but now I feel, Sir, that I was under a false impression. I think he is not doing anything for Bihar, he may be doing everything for other provinces. As regards the proposed broadcasting station at Patna when I put to him a question, he referred me to an answer he had given to a previous question, and also he complained of want of equipment. Now the sea is safe and lots of things are being obtained from all parts of the world, but so far as broadcasting equipment is concerned, there is still the complaint that equipment is not available in sufficient quantities. Sir, when I was in jail I heard that the

[Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.]

proposal to have a broadcasting station at Patna had advanced far ahead, but when I was out of jail I found that the progress was almost nothing. I therefore bring this matter to the notice of the House and to the notice of the whole Government, and to notice of the Honourable Member only. I may say one thing more. Ranchi is also a very important centre besides Patna; and there must be a broadcasting centre there also. But, Sir, what is the use of so many broadcasting stations when the radio sets are not available, as my friend, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, has just said? So, steps ought to be taken to make cheap radio sets available to the common people in the *mufassal*; and if this is not done all these radio stations will be utterly useless for these people. With these few words I say that the radio stations at Patna and Ranchi must be established at once.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, I am sorry to strike a discordant note, because I find that everybody is fond of the radio and evidently everybody is listening in almost every morning and every evening. . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): No, no; there are exceptions like myself.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I understand that the duty of the department is two-fold—to purvey news and music. I am an old-fashioned man and I am rather surprised that my Honourable friend the Leader of the House who has been perhaps the greatest patron of Benares music and musicians, should be in charge of this department and be happy over it. So far as I know, Indian music is not only to be heard, it has also to be seen; and I am really amazed that the Honourable Members of this House, including the Leader of the House, should enjoy music that cannot be seen. Indian music is not just one loud sound, like the European music. It has both sound and movement. . .

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Order, order: I am very reluctant to interrupt the Honourable Member, but he is perfectly aware of the restricted character of the scope of discussions on supplementary demands.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I am opposed to the whole department; and I must give some reasons for my position. In any case I hope that the Honourable Member will take steps to have television, because that may compensate for the loss to some extent.

The other thing is news. I will not in obedience to your ruling dilate on the previous point, though I thought it was an interesting one. I will now come to the other part, namely, news; I have great objection to the manner in which news is selected by the department. The only purpose for which I use my radio set is to get the news from Delhi in the night. I expect a lot of Indian news but I get nothing. I think that there should be more discrimination in the selection of news items. For instance, it is a sad thing that the radio did not broadcast the unfortunate news of the death of Mr. Khedan Lal, a Member of this House, and it did not also broadcast the news of the election of Sirdar Jogendra Singh in his place later on. . . .

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It did.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If it did, it must have done it two or three days later, because it did not do it that very night, because I was listening in that night particularly. In any case there are a lot of items of Indian news which we expect to hear, but we only get a summary of the war news which we have already read in the morning, and in which very few persons are interested. I therefore think that there needs to be some improvement, and if the Honourable Member is expanding, not in his person but in his department, at such a terrific rate, I think that we have every reason to expect some improvement in the conditions as they are.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir, I am very grateful to Mr. Tyson and to the other Members of the House in having treated me very kindly on this motion. I entirely agree with Mr. Tyson that the terms under which people work in the department and the terms which are offered to talkers and singers and other artists are scandalously low; and it is for that that the department went up to the Finance Department with certain proposals. It is not

so much the question of expansion as to try to improve the lot of those people who are working there, so that we may get the best results. As regards the expansion in the department, I heard Mr. Essak Sait to suggest that as there has been terrific expansion in the department it is necessary that some investigation should be made as regards what is being done by this department. I have absolutely no objection to that but I do deny that there has been any great expansion. What expansion has to be done is that suggested by the Honourable Members here, which I think should be done. Prof. Ranga wants a station in the Telugu area; and Mr. Ram Narayan Singh wants a station somewhere in Patna—if not at Patna certainly at Ranchi. Mr. Yusuf Haroon is not satisfied, and is very angry with us, because he has not got a station in Karachi.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I join hands with him.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: and Mr. Navalrai has been putting many questions before. . . .

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Since 1936!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: and now the Honourable Dr. Khare says "What about Nagpur?" I agree with all of them. I do think there is room for broadcasting stations, in all the provinces, subject to what Mr. Lakshmi Kanta Maitra has said, that is, that we must examine the question whether a radio station will be workable at certain places or not—all those technical questions should be examined first; but I am in entire agreement with all that has been suggested as regards the necessity of expansion of the Broadcasting Department, because I have heard nothing to justify my curtailing the activities of this department; though I agree with Mr. Essak Sait that some examination should be made whether we are going the right way or not; and there I agree: I have no objection whatever; and with that object I propose to place the whole matter before the Standing Finance Committee and will be prepared to answer any questions they like: any paper they want to see will be placed before them; any activities in the Department which they want to examine will be open to them.

As regards the reason why we have not been able to set up different stations, the answer is very simple. Whatever my intentions may be, whatever my desires may be, I am afraid in this matter there are others who have precluded my getting my objectives. I will not say how, but a number of equipments were lost; and in spite of my anxiety to have different new stations equipped, I could not get the equipment and therefore I am helpless. I will not deal with it for various reasons longer than that. I am sure the House understands what I mean. . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is where the war comes in, Mr. Sri Prakasa.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Thirty cases went down in 1948; forty P. M. cases went down in 1942; we have however been trying our level best, and His Majesty's Government are very anxious to let us have that equipment as soon as possible. Somebody suggested that the war was practically over. But food will be coming; consumers goods will be coming capital goods will be coming; then after that, our priority will come in. These are the difficulties which Government have to face; we cannot help it. After all, we cannot possibly say that our equipment should have priority over wheat, or over military needs and requirements and so on. But for that, I think at least in three or four provinces we would have had radio stations by this time, including Karachi and Nagpur and what is more important or most important, Patna.

There is one point which I must really answer and that was the main point I had to deal with and that has been raised by Mr. Chetty. Quite rightly he says that I must satisfy the House as regards the necessity for these items which are covered by the whole amount of Rs. 9,10,000. Out of this, over

[Sir Sultan Ahmed.]

Rs. 3,05,000 will be recovered from His Majesty's Government on account of the Far Eastern Bureau. Out of the remaining 6 lakhs—I am taking round figures—3,89,800 are covered by various items. Rs. 1,26,000 had to be paid on account of printing paper to Latin Press and other paper stocks. Then there is the increase of electric energy in the Delhi station and the electric rates have gone up. There is also the increased hours of working. This cost Rs. 50,000. Then the allowances come to 1,72,500. This is what you have sanctioned—the dearness allowance, the war allowance and all those things. Then there is a small amount spent for electric installations in the Madras and Peshawar studios. Then there are some small amounts with respect to cars and motor vehicles. There are certain purchases of stores made in England. That is for the electric transmitting station. The whole of this comes to 9 lakhs. That is my answer.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: With regard to the opening of new stations, I understand from the debate that to everybody the Honourable Member has been saying that there was no equipment and that the question would be considered when equipments were received. I happened to address him recently regarding the urgency of opening a broadcasting station in Karnatak for the Kannada speaking people, I also received the same reply. May I know whether there is any plan with regard to the expansion and opening of new stations in different areas and whether the Honourable Member is giving priority to Patna.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have got the evidence of Mr. Ram Narayan Singh that Patna comes last in everything. So far as Karnatak is concerned, I do not think it has been mentioned so far. The matter may be considered by the Planning and Development Department.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: I have got your letter with me.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That is true. I say that all these matters will be considered at the proper time.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,10,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 58—EMIGRATION—INTERNAL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 59—EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

Failure to debar certain Holder of Office of Profit under Crown from continuing as Member of Legislature

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,000 in respect of 'Emigration—External' be reduced by Rs. 100."

To censure the Government for declaring that the holder of such office as the subject matter of the demand may continue to be Member of the Legislature.

In this matter, I will discuss the principle underlying the cut motion. I shall not refer to the personalities involved in the question.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: What are you censuring the Government for?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: You will understand it if you wait a little. The Government of India Act in section 26 very advisedly debars people who hold any office of profit under the Crown from being Members of this Legislature. We should not go back on this very sound principle. The Government here is already weighted with 39 nominated seats and further they give emoluments to people and send them to Australia, to Washington and to every other place in the world. They have got any amount of patronage in their hands, if they want to multiply persons supporting them in this House. Now, Sir, they have got another way of getting Members attached to them. His Majesty's Government after the war made certain amendments to their own constitution and by means of an amending Act, they passed an amendment to section 68E of the Ninth Schedule of the Government of India Act to this effect:

"Provided that an Act of the Indian Legislature may declare any office in the service of the Crown in India to be an office the holding of which does not disqualify the holder thereof for election as, or continuance as, a member of either chamber of the Indian Legislature, and any such Act may be made to have effect from any date before the passing thereof, not earlier than the third day of September, nineteen hundred and thirty-nine."

They passed this as an enabling section by which the position of those who entered war service could be safeguarded in the Legislature. Instead of passing an Act of Legislature as suggested by this amending Act, the Government of India found it easy to pass an ordinance. They have passed the Indian Legislature Prevention of Disqualification Ordinance. This is a travesty of what His Majesty's Government wanted the Government of India to do. They have taken advantage of the amended provisions of the Government of India Act and then had a short cut and passed an ordinance at the signature of the Viceroy and Governor General. What does that provide. Section 2(c) provides:

"an office certified by the Central Government to be an office created for a purpose connected with the prosecution of the war, or to be an office to which, but for war conditions, a member of the defence or civil services of the Crown would have been appointed."

Now, Sir, let me ask this question. Is this appointment of the representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma connected with the prosecution of the war? I dare say, it is not. The prosecution of the war would not have been hampered if this gentleman were not appointed to this office. This office did not exist during the first three or four years of the war. The war went on merrily and the Japanese were beaten off the borders of India before this office was created. The war did not suffer in the least by the non-creation of this appointment. The prosecution of the war did not suffer in any way. Neither has it improved by this appointment? So, Sir, I submit this appointment should not be considered as one connected with the prosecution of the war. I submit it is a misuse, it is an abuse of law to have made this appointment and given exemption to the incumbent. This is the notification the Government issued:

"In pursuance of clause (c) of section 2 of the Indian Legislature Prevention of Disqualification Ordinance, 1942, the Central Government is pleased to certify the office of the representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma to be an office created for the purpose connected with the prosecution of the war."

I ask any sensible man who understands things to tell me if this has anything to do with the prosecution of the war. I can even understand if the office is to be held somewhere in Rangoon or somewhere in the midst of the fighting line. This job is held comfortably here in Delhi, it is a civil appointment and it has nothing to do with the prosecution of the war, it has nothing to do with the military or the naval service. To make such an appointment and to give exemption under the Ordinance is something which we cannot understand. I say, Sir, it is against the spirit of the Ordinance, the spirit of the Government of India Act and the spirit of the Amending Act. The Government of India have made themselves a party to this illegal act. I dare say

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

if it goes to a court of law—I do not know whether it will go—it will be held by any impartial judge that an appointment like this is not connected with the prosecution of the war. I say, Sir, it is absolutely wrong for the Government of India to have given this exemption. I understand, Sir, on previous occasions there have been appointments made and such exemptions have been given. At least, I know of one Honourable Member of this House—I do not want to refer to him because he is not present in the House—I think it was the Leader of the National War Front, though it was an employment under the Government of India, yet it was exempted and held to be one connected with the prosecution of the war—I speak subject to correction. I say, Sir, this practice must stop. If people want to take up appointments under the Government, let them do so by all means; we have not the least objection, let them take up these jobs at their sweet will and pleasure, but what we demand is that they should not be given the privilege of retaining their seat in this House also. I think it is a clear misuse of the powers vested in the Government of India and this should stop. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Cut motion moved:

“That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,000 in respect of ‘Emigration—External’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): Sir, at the outset, I want to tell the House that I endorse the principle enunciated by my Honourable friend opposite who moved this cut motion. But, I submit, Sir, that this appointment is an exception to the principle. The Honourable Member said that the Government have got a lot of patronage in their hands, that they can send people to Washington, they can send people to San Francisco, to Australia, and anywhere else, that they have got a large army of nominated men behind them and why should they take one elected man and deprive the elected part of this House of one vote. Quite correct. But the facts are otherwise. This appointment has not been made with a view to exercise any patronage to seduce any person or to dislodge him from his seat in the House. That is not the essential purpose in making this appointment. To substantiate my contention, I will point out to the House that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the incumbent of this appointment, has on many occasions, not only spoken against the Government but also moved cut motions and demanded a Division and voted against the Government. Surely this is not patronage on the part of Government to invite him to vote against them. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta is still functioning as an elected Member of this House.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But is that right to keep him like that?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I wanted to avoid personalities, right or wrong. But the Honourable Member is entering into personalities. I only wanted to discuss the principle involved in making exemption under the Ordinance.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The Honourable Member said that this appointment was made with a view to distribute patronage. I say it is not. I want to clear that position. Then, Sir, it has been questioned that this appointment has been concerned with any purpose connected with the prosecution of the war. I refute this contention also. The House is aware that a large number of labourers are being recruited for purposes connected with the carrying on of the war into Burma. These labourers are ancillary to the military and they are recruited more or less as military personnel. There must be somebody in charge of things connected with these labourers, to look after their interests and unless we appoint a man who has been connected with labour interests, it will be difficult to create confidence in their minds especially under war conditions. It was therefore thought necessary to put some gentleman to be in charge of this arrangement.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): But must he be a Member of this House?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: He must be conversant with labour problems and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta was considered to be the proper person for that purpose.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: His duties are in Simla and Delhi and not at the front.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: His duties are to do his work properly.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: His labours are here; but his labourers are there.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: You, Sir, if I may remind the House, raised in the course of supplementary questions the desirability of appointing similar officers to Malaya and other places and I more or less anticipated the desire of certain quarters of the House in making this appointment. I maintain, Sir, it is not opposed to law, I maintain, Sir, it is no abuse of law, it is proper use of law, because when a certain appointment is definitely connected with war purposes, the Government could so declare under the ordinance which they have passed. Therefore, I maintain that there is nothing wrong in this appointment and no violation of any principle is involved in this case. I do not suppose that anybody could make a fetish of it.

I come to another aspect. This amendment has been moved by my Honourable friend coming from Madras. I am bound to tell him that when the Congress Ministry was functioning in Madras, the Premier wanted to have a certain gentleman in the Cabinet, but that gentleman did not happen to be a member of the legislature in Madras. So, the Premier got the Governor to nominate that gentleman to the Upper House and took him into the Cabinet as a Popular Minister. I do not see any difference between that case and the present one, in essence, there is no difference. Therefore, I stoutly maintain that no misuse of powers or principle is involved in this case. What is sauce for the gander is sauce for the goose, and my Honourable friend should not make any bones about it, and I do hope that with the explanation I have given, the Honourable Member will have the courtesy to withdraw his motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to support this out motion. What we are discussing today is a question of principle, whether a non-official Member of this Legislature, after having accepted an office under the Crown should continue to be a non-official Member of the Legislature. And judging from the speech of the Honourable Member in charge I must say that he has not given one single argument to show why a gentleman who has been appointed an officer under the Crown should continue to be a non-official Member of the Legislature.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Order, order. The Honourable Member realises that the issue he has raised is outside the scope of the motion and does not really concern Government, but the Honourable Member himself who has accepted the appointment. Government could not possibly compel an elected Member to resign his seat.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I should like to point out that without that certificate under the Ordinance he could not possibly sit there. The primary cause is this certificate.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: We censure Government for issuing that notification. We certainly are not against our friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta being appointed High Commissioner for Burma. Although I do not like the labour movement to lose his services by reason of this appointment, I congratulate the Government of India upon having secured such an able man for this job of High Commissioner. But I cannot congratulate the Government of India on having used their Ordinance for a wrong purpose. The Ordinance was passed for enabling people who are doing war work to retain their seats in the Legislature. But the Honourable Member has not said anything as to whether the appointment of High Commissioner for Burma was necessary for war work. And we really cannot imagine what connection there can be between the prosecution of the war and this appointment. Personally I think it was wrong for the Government of India to have issued this Ordinance and changed the constitution of

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this Legislature. If the Government of India wanted to enable the Members to retain their seats they should have left it to the Legislature itself. But they issued this Ordinance for a wrong purpose and wrongly changed the character of the Legislature. It is true that in England they have taken steps to enable some Members of Parliament to join war work, but they have done it by an Act of Parliament itself. I therefore feel that the Government of India issued an Ordinance for a wrong purpose. Secondly, I hold that conditions in England are different from those in India. In England they have conscription and therefore some Members of Parliament are bound to go and do some war work; and an Act of exemption is absolutely necessary there because of that conscription. It is true that during this war they have extended the use of this necessary exemption to some posts which have no connection with the war. But in India there is no such thing; there is no conscription and so there was no need for issuing any kind of exemption at all. And if any exemption was to be given, certainly it should have been given with the consent of the Legislature. Sir, I feel that the Government of India have failed in their duty in not consulting this Legislature in the first place, and in the second place they deserve to be censured for abusing the power which the Ordinance has given them.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Sir, at the outset I want to make it clear that in supporting this motion we are not actuated by any personalities. As a matter of fact I am sure the Honourable Mover (Mr. Chettiar) also was not actuated by personalities at all. It is a question of principle, and so far as that goes, I think my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi has placed it before the House very clearly and very definitely. The question is whether we in this House will agree to Government enticing away our Members by giving them fat jobs. It would certainly become an instrument for corruption in the hands of an irresponsible Government. In England conditions are quite different. There are many checks under which that Government has to work; even then it was after some years of war that the British Government thought it necessary to have a measure passed in the British Parliament. And Mr. Joshi has very rightly pointed out that that was done because there was conscription there. Members of Parliament are just as much subject to those laws as any one else, and therefore it was found necessary that certain Members who were found very essential for war work should be so exempted. Here I do not think Government have made a case or can make out a case for going against the very little democracy that obtains in this country. My Honourable friend has not made out a case that the gentleman who has been appointed was the only man available in this whole country. Even with regard to the particular services that my Honourable friend is expected to perform, the Honourable Member in charge will agree that there are any number of people who have such a representative character, who are leaders of labour and who can perform these duties. It is not as if there was a dearth of personnel that he should have gone in for this appointment.

Then, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the observation of the Finance Committee. This is what is recorded on page 24:

- "(i) The Committee approved the proposal by a majority but felt that they should have been consulted before the appointment was made.
(ii) Some members also said that their approval of the proposal did not imply approval of the conditions under which the appointment had been made."

So from the very beginning this Legislature and its representatives on Committees have made it quite clear, and as the House will remember, the press raised a big hue and cry against this; and we in this House feel that this certainly is not a procedure which should be encouraged.

I therefore very strongly support this cut motion and I hope the House will vote for it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I whole-heartedly support this cut motion. I cannot at all agree with my Honourable friend Dr. Khare when he says that he has not done any illegal thing. I think he has certainly abused the law and the privileges that the Members on that side are able to exercise under the law. Even today we have had news from London that Mr. Amery was not willing to send the Burma Government,—and along with that my Honourable friend the Indian Agent also,—to Burma because in Burma today all operations are being carried on under the military authorities, and therefore there could not be any place for the civilian Government in occupied as well as unoccupied Burma. As such it cannot possibly be a matter of military emergency that my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta should be particularly asked for and allowed to remain in this House while holding this office. I agree with Mr. Joshi when he says that the Government has certainly been wise in having a labour man for this job. If it is merely a question of abilities, my Honourable friend, Mr. Chettiar, has made it perfectly clear yesterday that there is one job here for which there are no qualifications and that is the Executive Councilor's job. Judged from that standard, I can assure my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta is certainly as able as any one of these gentlemen who occupy the Treasury Benches. It is his misfortune that he happens to be born in a slave country, that he is too impatient to get a job and therefore he has come to accept this very small job. Otherwise if he had only waited for his own proper time, he would certainly have become in his own time a Minister of a self-governing India, and that too a very able minister.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Along with you.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But my trouble with Mr. Jamnadas Mehta is this, and that covers my Honourable friend Dr. Khare also: Dr. Khare seems to think that the constituency of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has not suffered by virtue of the fact that he has accepted that job there and remained here. Let him compare his speech on the Finance Bill this year with the speeches that this gentleman has made in the previous years and you will find the difference. It is a poor apology. His own constituency will not at all be satisfied with his performance on this Finance Bill. There were occasions when my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, could not go into the Opposition lobby where he was only too eager to go into that lobby on occasions when he was a free man and a free Member of this Assembly. I can quote chapter and verse in order to prove that his constituency has suffered and this country has also suffered in allowing an elected Member of this House to go into a Government job and at the same time retaining a position here. It is a very embarrassing situation. (Interruption.) I do not know whether it is embarrassing to the Government at all, but it is certainly embarrassing to the non-official side of this Assembly.

Sir, it is a very easy gibe for people to say, "You are always ready to oppose anything we do, because you are always opposed to our war effort". We need not bring in that question here. The question of our participation in this war does not arise. The question is that this is not really a war appointment, but this is an appointment made in order to satisfy themselves and in order to assure themselves of the support of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, who also happens to be a non-official member of this House. They have seduced him and they have simply deprived him of the privilege he would have exercised in voting against this Government whenever a non-official Member of his standing would have thought it his duty to vote against the Government by putting him in this very embarrassing situation. Certainly my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, has won an additional feather in his cap by making the best of both the worlds—by getting a job under the Government and at the same time retaining his seat in this House. He is in a position to say to other Members of this House, 'I am able to oppose this Government; I am able to speak against this Government; I am even able to move a

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cut motion against this Government as any other non-official Member can do'. I can only tell him and tell my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, also that they have not done the right thing either by the country or by themselves by this sort of a joke.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: If it is a joke, why take it seriously?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is a question of patronage. Every Government exercises and enjoys a certain amount of patronage, and therefore it is nothing extraordinary. But there is a way of exercising patronage. Your way is absolutely wrong and obnoxious also.

The Honourable N. B. Khare: It is far better than the Congress ways when they were in office. I know it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You go out of your way to insult the public in this country to go behind the constitution of this country—weak though it is, undemocratic though it is—and you come and inflict this insult upon us by placing this gentleman here in this House while he is a paid employee of this Government. Even abler than him and a leader even to himself, there was Mr. Aney, once our revered leader, who came to accept an office under this Crown, but what did he do? You expected him; he acceded to your expectations; he resigned his seat; made way for another person.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): No, no.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is right. Mr. Aney when he became an Executive Councillor lost his seat. So long as Mr. Mehta happens to be a paid employee of this Government, he is in no way different from an Executive Councillor and he should have resigned his seat of his own accord. If only he had remembered his past glorious days—he forgot that—it should have reminded him of his duty, but instead he goes out of his way. Dr. Khare did not know how to exercise his patronage. Why did you do it? My Honourable friend is as good as any one of you. He could claim to be an honoured servant of this Government, this company Government though it is. Instead of that, you put him in this unenviable position by going for him—an old colleague of ours and an honoured colleague of our past—in this manner. You did this. I say, even on his behalf I have to censure you.

There was a great man in England—Edmond Burke—who enunciated the principle that no job-man or place-man of Government should be allowed to remain in the House of Commons or any Legislature without first of all resigning his seat and then again seeking the approval of his constituency to retain his seat as a Minister. There were very bad days in 1760 and prior to that; there were very many men, like these place-men, stuffing the House of Commons. They pretended to be elected members but they were in the secret pay of George the III and they were always voting in favour of the Ministry, keeping out the elected members, the real representatives of the people, and therefore he wrote a book, a terrible condemnation of George III, known as 'Present Discontent', and he enunciated this principle that there should be no place at all for any place-hunters or for any place-men in any elected legislature. In pursuance of this principle, this salutary practice has been pursued in England that no one can accept an appointment under the Crown unless he first of all resigns.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir Samuel Hoare while he was Ambassador in Spain retained his seat in the House of Commons.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The difficulty is that you happen to be a doctor and not a historian!

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The Honourable Member had better address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: No, Sir. How dare he address such remarks to you!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There was a man called Bridgeman. He was appointed a Minister by the man who died only yesterday, Lloyd George. He sought re-election from his constituency. Three times he was refused. Then Lloyd George took advantage of a sort of special privilege given to these, people during

the time of the last war. But it extended only for six months. Even before this period was over this Bridgeman, the unlucky, was obliged to resign from the Ministry and go out of the House of Commons. That was the position soon after the last war.

Then I come to Sir Samuel Hoare. Now he is Lord Templewood. In his case also advantage was taken of the war situation, as a result of which he had to be kept in Madrid to keep Spain on her good behaviour. Necessarily England needed his services but he was too big a man for Mr. Churchill. Mr. Churchill was very happy that this gentleman was got rid of because he was his rival in the Conservative Party, my friend Sir Sultan Ahmed. He got rid of him by this trick of his. He has had to get rid of another man—Malcolm MacDonald. He has gone to Canada. All that was answered by my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar: that so far as England is concerned, exceptional war circumstances do prevail. Therefore there may be an excuse for those people, but there is none here. Here in India it is not a popular Government. It is a hopelessly nominated Government. Therefore there is all the greater reason why no elected seats should be robbed in this manner. We are poor already because of these seats. In addition to that one more seat is to be lost to us. We do not want to allow you to do this. That is why I am here on my feet to condemn you and censure you.

Sir, we are told that this agent is expected to protect our labour in Burma. What is that labour? There is no Indian labour in Burma now. Our labour is being recruited for military purposes. This gentleman has no control over that labour. They are being ill-treated. Nor do you have any control—(Addressing the Chair) Sir, I beg your pardon:—Dr. Khare himself stated so in answer to supplementaries. One answer was that he would look into the matter. Then after hesitation, because he was expecting inspiration from these other Members, he said, "Yes, certainly we will do that". What is he going to do? I am afraid he does not know. This Government does not know. If it does, it dare not do anything because it is under military administration. You cannot even dare abuse them. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta certainly is a nice man. He is extremely anxious to go to Burma and look after Indian labour if and when he is allowed to go into Burma and until labour is allowed to go there. Indian labour is there but it is being exploited by the military and ill-treated and the conditions under which our labourers are working are not satisfactory. But neither Dr. Khare nor Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has the least possible power—they may use their influence—constitutionally or politically to improve the conditions of these people by making these military authorities behave themselves properly. And what are these military authorities doing? They are not recruiting just that labour which was in Burma in the past and which would like to go to Burma and which wants its conditions of immigration or emigration to and from Burma to be satisfactorily settled by this Government. They are recruiting helpless labour which was first of all recruited for army purposes from Malabar, and who for want of nourishment joined the army.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: All the conditions suggested by Government for labour welfare have been accepted by the military authorities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: So far we have gained one point. They have accented our conditions. But what those conditions are we do not know. I do not know whether they have been worked out at all in his department.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Certainly they are!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I do not know when he is going to do it. In the meantime we are burdened with this loaded dice. We do not want Mr. Jamnadas Mehta to remain in this House as long as he accepts a job. Rs. 2,500 is nothing for him. I would like him to get as much salary as those gentlemen. But what our objection is to his presence in this House. He will ask me: "Look here Ranga, have I done no good. I have made a good speech. Why do you complain. I have made a good speech against the Finance Member".

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I have never said anything.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He may tell me!

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muham-madan Rural): You are not hearing what he said:

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He has kept on saying that. Otherwise he would not tread on dangerous ground and annoy the Finance Member himself.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Imagination running riot:

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Quite right. Without imagination there will not be any Commonwealth Relations!

Now, Sir, I want to ask my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta to think of those glorious days of 1926 and 1930 and not to give a sort of jocular answer to us; not to use his very sharp parliamentary wits against us, because we are not in a position to dismiss him. But let him first of all resign his position here in this House and then go to the Burma Government and attack them, telling them what we all feel about Burma and the so-called blue-print. There is plenty of work for him to do there. There is enough, not for one Jamnadas Mehta but many such. For my Indian labour I want two Jamnadas Mehtas: their wage conditions will need another: their political disabilities will need a third. On top of it there is my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar. He is an industrialist, and industrialists have to be protected. Their interests were jeopardised. They need another man. Then there are the shipping companies. There are the Indian companies. They will deal with our men in turn. We do not want these shipping people to be discriminated against. Then why does my Honourable friend, when he is all alone, waste his time here and waste India's time and remain here and make speeches which are not followed by his votes? That is why I say my Honourable friend will do himself a very nice turn and do the country the same by no longer embarrassing my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare—his friend as well as our friend—by resigning his position and giving the constituency the freest possible choice to elect a really electable Member to this House and in that way no longer do any more disservice to this country that he himself unwittingly and wittingly the Commonwealth Relations Department have done so far.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): I appear to be like a red rag to my friend Prof. Ranga. All the same, I would like to say a few words on this question. I agree that in principle the position taken by my Honourable friend on the other side is absolutely correct and from the point of view of the future of the country I am anxious that this Government should not set an example to the Democratic Government that is likely to follow by doing anything which will do great harm to the constitution of the country. Already I find the news in the papers that the Sind Government are going to pass an Act creating two posts of advisers, to which they are going to appoint the two Hindu members who have been recently kicked out of the cabinet. The Government of today which is sitting on the front Bench has to lay down traditions which will stand in good stead to the people who are going to follow them and from that point of view I am quite prepared to agree that this appointment is very very unfortunate. I am not prepared to go so far with my friend Mr. Joshi as to say that the measure under which the exemption was granted was unnecessary in India. I know of some cases, at least one case, where a person holding a seat in the Legislature would have lost his seat, because he held a King's Commission. I agree with Mr. Joshi when he said that what was enacted by an ordinance should have been brought before this House. A regular Bill should have been brought before this House. My difficulty is this. If my presumption is correct that when Mr. Griffiths was appointed leader of the National War Front, I am not sure whether he was in receipt of a salary

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, no.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: The statement made by Mr. Chettiar was not challenged.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: You cannot go about challenging every statement made.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: In that case this is the first appointment of the kind. Then I think the Government should have thought twice, before making the appointment. There is no dispute regarding the qualities and ability of the person concerned. But I cannot agree with Dr. Khare when he said that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's freedom of action was absolutely unfettered. It cannot be unfettered and even if it is unfettered it is bound to give rise to a very delicate situation. Both the Government and he become suspect. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has been a great friend of mine. We have been associated in various activities in Bombay. We have known each other for over 20 years and I know that he would not have cared to accept this appointment except on the basis that he should be allowed to continue to be a Member of the Legislature and take part in labour activities. But whatever it is, taking a long view of the thing, the action of the Government is very unfortunate and I do trust that both the Government and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta will give their most careful consideration to this aspect of the question—whether from the point of view of correct constitutional principles this unfortunate situation should be allowed to continue. I do not think that this is a matter for censuring the Government because on merits they have made a good appointment. I for one am not prepared to say that there is no connection between the war and the Burma situation. I am not prepared to say that, because a large number of Indians will be in Burma when the army of reconquest goes in. I think it is necessary to have an Indian custodian of their interests but it was open to the Government to select a man who was outside the legislature and not to create this unhappy position, where their action is suspect and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's position is also open to suspicion. (Interruption.) Even if they had appointed Mr. Joshi the trouble would have arisen. I know Mr. Joshi is a great friend of Mr. Mehta. When he spoke he had no personal motive in the remarks he made. I do trust that both the Government and my friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta will consider their position. Mr. Mehta's disappearance from this House will be a great loss to the House but his relinquishing the appointment in Burma may also be a great loss to the Indians there. It is not a laughing matter, because I know something of the work which Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has done and is capable of doing. I have been associated with him in the tackling of many problems in the civic administration of the City of Bombay and I know his capacity and I know his drive for work. Although I have differed from him very often we have been closely associated on several activities in the past. When I say this I speak from my own personal experience. His disappearance from his new position may prove a great loss to the Indians in Burma but he has got to make a choice between this House and the Indians in Burma and now that this discussion has taken place, I hope the Opposition will not press this motion to a division.

Several Honourable Members: No, no.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You have said that you have nothing personal against Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. You have nothing against the selection of the individual concerned. The only thing you object to is his membership of the House. Give him the opportunity and give the Government the opportunity to right the situation.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I must assure the House that I have no ill-will against Mr. Jamnadas Mehta at all. I hope no one will suspect that because I exposed the question of Rs. 18,000 being wasted on the Labour Federation, it is from that point of view that I have got to say a few words on this very important motion. It appears to me that this is a very important question on which the public mind has been much perturbed. If we allow elected Members who are sent by the people and they, after obtaining the vote of that electorate, come here to accept office under the Crown, I think we will be doing so not only to the detriment of the interests of the country but we will be laying down a vicious principle which is absolutely against constitutional law. I think it is considered on all sides that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's holding both positions is

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

against constitutional law. Now we have under the Government of India Act a rule—Rule 68 E—which lays down a general rule against such a procedure. It however makes an exception, to which I will come later on but the general rule is that if an elected Member accepts office under the Crown, he gets thereby disqualified and he must vacate his seat in the Legislature. I think even common sense would suggest that. I think self-respect would dictate that. That illustrates that I come in one position, change my colours and go and join another and become an enemy of the persons who elected me. There is no doubt that under the Government of India Rules there is an exception. But what is that exception? That exception allows job hunting with the permission of the Legislature". I am laying my emphasis on the word "Legislature". I know that ordinances are being made, but the word "legislature" should mean this House. If the Legislature allows that by an Act it may not be legally though morally wrong for him to accept the position. I find that it is not the Legislature that has allowed it. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta is a member of this House, and I think this House should give him the permission, not that an ordinance should be made, which means an ordinance by the Government of India. In other words, the present Government of India are giving him permission to have a job under them, not getting any permission from this side. He now holds these two positions. With my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta we have had very cordial relations. He was in our Party, he went away from our Party. Long long ago Mr. Jamnadas Mehta was a member of the Congress, from there he jumped to our Nationalist Party, from there he has now gone to his blessed place, the Government. He is going out of India. He sails to Burma which is a long way off. We do not know whether he will reach Burma or not, but he will reach Simla all right.

So then, if there is any question of monetary necessity, one can understand. I remember once he said to us, he said so in this House also, that he does not own any house and that he lives in a Dharamsala in Bombay. Now if it is so—I do not myself say so, he said so at one time—if it is true, I think he has found a treasure now from which he can buy property and make himself happy. I will not go into all this any further. I am taking the constitutional point. It would be very graceful if he would come forward, chuck up the appointment, and be true to his constituency.

I do not want to say anything more on this point, but I can not forget one thing. When I look at Honourable Dr. Khare I remember his ways. He was also in the Congress, he left the Congress, or rather he was turned out of the Congress, I do not know which. He came to accept office. I used to hear him here beside me and throwing strong words at Government. Now he comes forward and says that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has done right in accepting the post where he will be serviceable, but what about the prejudice to the public interests? Is it not losing popular side vote? If he would have been on this side, on every point, we would have got his vote. Now he does not vote on our side. Is it not against his own constituency? Without saying anything more I will appeal to him that he should not have both the positions. Let him select for himself, let him not be misguided by the Honourable Member who is in charge of what are called Commonwealth Relations, but they instead become individual relations.

Mr. Sami Venkatchelam Chetty: I feel it my duty to make a few observations in support of the motion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar. In doing so I do not feel any real necessity to be apologetic either to my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, who made this appointment, or to my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, who had the misfortune to accept it. Sir, my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, has practically admitted the absurdity of the appointment by his whole-hearted endorsement of the views expressed by my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, in support of this motion. In fact, the very resort to the Defence of India Regulations in order to pass an ordinance to qualify a gentleman who has accepted a post under the Crown to retain his seat in the Legislature is itself a demon-

tration beyond dispute of the mischief and fraud that has been committed by Government on the very constitution. Sir, it is only a bad example for Government to offer appointments to the elected Members of this House and allow them to continue their seats in this Chamber. Apart from that, the enormity of the fraud which the Government have perpetrated on the constituency which elected my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, is too serious to be described. Now to what straits has this Government been driven in order to make this appointment and still allow Mr. Mehta to continue in this Chamber!

Is it that the interests of the labour of Burma would be considerably endangered but for the appointment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta? Could nobody else in this vast continent be found who could give the same help or assistance to the labourers of Burma? Or is it that this Government cannot carry on the administration without the vote of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta? They have got a number of persons who are prepared to vote for them, and who are obliged to vote for them, whatever may be their own individual views. In spite of it and although they must have become accustomed to defeats and lost all sense of shame with regard to defeats,—after all the defeats they have suffered,—why should they add to the continuous and continual shame that is heaped upon them by making a further depredation on this constitution by allowing that gentleman, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, to continue here though he has accepted a place under the Crown?

Now, my Honourable friends Mr. Joshi and Prof. Ranga, having regard to their association with my esteemed friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, could not really bring home a part of the guilt at least to Mr. Mehta himself. I feel bound to say that in this transaction both the Government and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta have got much to explain their conduct. I do not believe that this ordinance would have been passed or this rule would have been passed, but for the request of Mr. Mehta that he should be allowed to retain his seat, even though he had accepted an office under the Crown. Otherwise, where was the necessity for the Government to say "You have accepted a place but you may also remain in the House". That would be an unsolicited favour that must have been conferred upon him. I therefore take it that Mr. Mehta himself imposed it as a condition of his acceptance of the office that he must be allowed to retain his seat. Why should Mr. Mehta insist upon that? If he thought his services were useful in another sphere of public administration, by all means the choice is entirely his, and he should have chucked out the membership of this Assembly. But did he want to support this Government by not making that constituency open for election and allowing another Congressman to come in? Was he an accomplice in that transaction with the Government to keep off an elected member of that constituency from this side? Was that the understanding under which the Government has allowed that gentlemen to continue in his seat? If that be so, both are committing a great fraud upon that constituency; and I desire if merely in self-defence that my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, would say here and now that he did not care to retain his seat here since he had accepted a place there, or that it was at the request of the Government to accept that place and he would not thereby give up this seat and allow another man who represents the electorate to come into this Assembly and carry on. Therefore I cannot entirely exonerate my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta of being privy to this transaction, which is not at all creditable either to the Government or to himself.

Now, with regard to his own work in Burma, it is rather very doubtful if he will be able to do much. I quite understand the honesty of intentions of my Honourable friend, Mr. Mehta. He might be just surging with ideas and with proposals to bring benefit and assistance to these afflicted countrymen of ours in Burma and some of those refugees who would like to go back to that country, when that country is recaptured. But Mr. Jamnadas Mehta having an experience of public life for certainly more than thirty years must have known by this time the limitations under which this wonderful Government is carrying on, the limitations under which he has got to carry on his work

[Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty.]

there, the impediments which are placed before him and all those things and I think prudence must have dictated to him to refrain from accepting a job so embarrassing to himself and embarrassing to this country.

My Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, does not appear to me all to be serious when he admits his defeat. He has got a few ideas always obsessing his head—they appear to be in his bonnet. Now, one criticism—I think I heard it for the 6th or 7th time in this House—is that a Chief Congress Minister in one province went out of the elected group and nominated or requested the Governor of that province to nominate that gentlemen and made him a minister. Surely I do not think in his serious moments he would argue the point that both the cases are analogous. This is in quite a different category. I can understand that instance being compared to his own appointment in the Executive Council. That is a possible explanation; but what has the appointment of my friend, Mr. Mehta, to do with the nomination of a gentleman to a House and making him a minister? Certainly Dr. Khare is nominated and thereafter made a Member of the Executive Council or he was made a Member of the Executive Council and thereafter nominated to this House; that is an analogy which may hold good in comparing it with Dr. Rajan and Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: My point is that. He was nominated to the Legislative Council by the Governor and then was included in a popular Ministry.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: I am sure that the British Members on the other side are aware of the practice in the House of Commons. If a gentleman accepts office or a place under the Crown, while he is a member of the House of Commons, he resigns his seat and that healthy practice ought to be observed even in the limited powers of our constitution. Unfortunately, he does not seem to have any regard either for the privileges of the House such as they are, or for the practices of the constitution elsewhere, or the *bona fides* and good intentions of either the persons appointing or the persons appointed. Unfortunately, my friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has been placed in a very very embarrassing position. On this very resolution, I wonder how he is going to vote. Would he in conformity with the best traditions of parliamentary practice, in conformity with his own conception of how the Government should be carried on, agree with the observations made by my friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, and vote for the cut motion? Or will he, giving the go-by to all those concepts and all those high principles by which he stood so long, vote with the Government which appointed him? I know he is placed on the horns of a dilemma. Surely you cannot ask an agent who has been appointed by Government to vote against it: that will be ingratitude and I am sure he will consider it to be ingratitude. But what about the constituency which elected him and sent him here? What about his own opinions and what about his own experiences? What about his own views with which he has got to disagree in case he does not vote with us?

Now, Sir, of all the constituencies, the labour constituency is a very jealous master. Though on this occasion he has been elected by Poona in place of my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil, yet his affiliations with labour are not yet divorced. They still continue. I am sure this labour will have a very watchful eye on my Honourable friend Mr. Mehta. (Interruption.) Therefore I am glad that this discussion has taken place. It has cleared a good deal of misunderstanding about the action of the Government and the action of my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. Now we see that Mr. Mehta has been practically enticed away by the Government, but I am sure he is too old a man to be in the hands of the seducer for all time. I am sure he will get out of it very soon. But I am sure nobody is going to leave him so long as he is in the hands of the Government, because he is too old a hand for that purpose. At any rate I expect that in the interests of decency of parliamen-

tary practice and with a regard to seeing that the high principles of the constitution should stand aloft without being injured in this clandestine manner, I hope that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta will walk into our lobbies and I am sure he will do so.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,000 in respect of 'Emigration—External' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): There are amendments in the name of Mr. Essak Sait. Does he wish to move them?

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: I do not want to move them.

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

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

"That a reduced supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,22,900 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—42.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Guranath.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ismaiel Alikhan, Kunwer. Hajee.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.
Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.

Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Piare Lall Kureel, Mr.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Ram Chandra, Mr.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
Muhammad.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
Spence, Sir George.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. G. W.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—56.

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. M. H.
Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthanayanam.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Das, Mr. B.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sir K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chandhury, Mr. D. K.

The motion was negatived.

Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. A.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Padma Bai.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

DEMAND No. 60—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Sir, just one word. This demand is No. 60 at present. In the Budget it was No. 59. I found some difficulty in tracing this. I find a lump sum of one lakh provided in the Budget. May I know what is it for? There it is said: "lump provision for the Government of India, Administrative Intelligence Room". In this connection, I want to say that the statistical department of the Government of India should improve. If it is to be improved it must be from the point of view of the good of the people. I know with regard to food and other things, there are no reliable statistics of any sort. We are asked to provide for lump sums and we must have the right to expect a good system of statistics. I hope Government will evolve a good system of statistics which will tell people where they stand.

The Honourable Sir M. Azirul Huque: So far as the last point is concerned as I have said, I have already taken steps by getting together all the statisticians of the different departments and trying to find out how we can reshape our statistical policy and statistical methods. I do hope that I will be able to have a report in the course of the next two or three months. All the statisticians of the different departments are now meeting together. I have already taken steps in that direction. As regards administrative intelligence room, I gave explanation during the Budget discussion that it is exactly for the purpose of placing at the disposal of all the departments and such others who may be interested in all the materials in an intelligent form. This is being attempted in one place where on all economic problems which anybody may possibly think of statistics could be got readily at hand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I want some information about the appointment of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India. No details are given here. The Economic Adviser, Sir Theodore Gregory, was brought to this country—I remember the occasion—on the understanding that he was not to be the permanent incumbent of the post. I do not know whether Government are thinking of making this post permanent. If it is to be a permanent one, then this House has certainly strong objection to making Sir Theodore Gregory the permanent incumbent of this particular post. In fact on that occasion, this House censured Sir James Grigg

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is nothing about the Economic Adviser in the Supplementary Demand. It is only in the main demand.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all that.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 61—CENSUS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Census'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 64—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The explanation given on page 27 is:

"Due to the setting up of additional Provincial and Regional Labour Supply committees, Labour supply depots and labour supply bureaux."

I find on page 12 under the Demand for Labour:

"Creation of the Directorate of Unskilled Labour Supply for co-ordination of the work of the provincial and regional labour supply committees and the labour supply depots."

I think, Sir, there is a repetition. I should like to know what is the difference between the two.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): That demand was quite different. It was for the pay of officers, it refers to the salaries of officers, while this is quite a different thing. This is on account of opening of certain labour supply committees, labour supply bureaux and labour supply depots. This is the cost incurred in regard to workmen and that refers only to salaries of officers of the Secretariat.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I will read it again:

"Due to the setting up of additional Provincial and Regional Labour Supply committees."

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: This is for co-ordination, that is done in the Secretariat. The item on page 12 refers to salary of officers working in the Secretariat, while this demand refers to work done outside the Secretariat.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 66—MINT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,80,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Mint'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,80,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 69—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 70—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 62,81,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 62,81,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I had a cut motion down in my name but I will not move it; I will have a discussion without moving that cut. In the note we find that part of it is due to the adjustment in respect of lend-lease stores. We had a couple of days back an elucidation from the Finance Member as to how the lend-lease arrangement is working. He gave us an account and said that the shipments that they got under the lend-lease system have no dollar value and consequently no sterling value and consequently no rupee value. Then how does he adjust this amount for the articles that he receives under lease-lend arrangements? On page 5 of his budget speech the Finance Member says:

"The total amount of supplies and services expected to be made to India under Lend-Lease arrangements up to the end of 1944-45 is now estimated at roughly 515 crores, and the value of these supplies and services which India, but for Lend-Lease, would have had to provide at her own expense is now assessed at, approximately Rs. 150 crores."

Without having the values put upon them I should like to know how he arrives at these figures. What is the price he pays for them? Today in reply to a question the Railway Member gave us figures of the prices of wagons and engines that he receives from the U. S. A. But according to the Finance Member they do not come with any value attached to them. Then how do they price these things? Then, in return for these lease-lend articles we supply them with a lot of things, and I should like to know whether these lend-lease operations are working to our advantage. In the House of Commons, on a discussion of these lend-lease operations it was said by some one that it is not possible to make these calculations, and significantly added that it is not desirable. Possibly the British Government is making a huge profit out of these transactions. But I am not concerned with that; I am concerned with India. I should like to know if any calculations have been made with regard to these lend-lease arrangements and whether Government have made any estimate of the prices of articles they are getting. If they have estimated it, I should like to know at what rate they have made it. I understood the Railway Member to say today that the cost of wagons and engines that come from the U. S. A. is more than five times the cost before the war. How do they arrive at that figure? I should further like to know whether they have a list and account of all the articles that they are supplying from this country to the U. S. A., what is the price of the goods that they are supplying and at what rate they have calculated them. I presume it is all at controlled rates. And as far as I understand even from the House of Commons proceedings, the price that the Americans are quoting for post-war articles is one-third of what they are quoting today. So what is the rate at which we are paying for these articles and how do they arrive at these figures? I hope the Honourable Member will give a reply to these points.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, this is a very important matter. Unfortunately it has come up before this House at this late hour and so it cannot be taken up as seriously as it deserves. My Honourable friend has not been able to give us much information; when Honourable Members took him to task he said he was not in a better position himself because he was not supplied with the necessary information when the lend-lease operations had begun and when the American supplies began to pour into India. It was only later on that the Americans began to tell him that these were not intended to be free gifts but that there was a price list attached to these shipments. Now we want to know this. When they placed these orders abroad, did they compare the price lists at all between these competitive countries, England and America? We should like to know whether there is any sort of competition at all between England and America and whether they took the trouble of placing their orders—even to the extent that in war time the necessary competitive market does not prevail—in that market which offers them better goods and, if possible, cheaper goods. We do not know whether there are any principles that are suggested for the guidance of our purchasing mission in America in making their purchases there. My Honourable friend has just now said that the Americans are quoting post-war prices at one-third the prices which prevail to-day. I do not know how far

that is correct but I do know one thing that in regard to agricultural goods they passed a law which has made it incumbent upon the American Government to maintain 80 per cent. of the war-time price level of agricultural goods for two years after the war is over. If that is any sort of guidance at all in regard to industrial goods also I am afraid the post-war prices of industrial goods also are likely to be very high, may be forbiddingly high, so far as India is concerned. Some scientific, detailed and serious inquiry has got to be made into this matter, and at least our future Finance Member may be left with some guidance from the present Finance Member if at all he is capable of leaving any guidance—with the information that is there at his disposal, because we do not know how much of information the Honourable Member has at his disposal. Therefore I hope the Honourable Member will take this House into his confidence and give us some reliable and detailed information, so that it may be possible for this House to at least formulate an opinion on this matter and then be in a position to pursue it in future.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I submit that a good deal of the discussion has been irrelevant to this particular demand and has dealt rather with the general question of lend-lease and reciprocal aid, which I endeavoured to deal with in my reply to the debate on the consideration motion of the Finance Bill. However, I will say this. We are not always in a difficulty about obtaining information regarding the prices of lend-lease goods. There are certain goods which we have actually purchased; we have not obtained them on lend-lease and so we know the prices attached to those. And there are certain goods regarding which the question as to whether they will be lend-lease or will be paid for is not always finally settled at the time when they are despatched. So the question of price is known. On the other hand, it is quite true, as the Honourable Member said, that there have been many Lend-Lease consignments to us of which we have had to make the best estimate we could of their value.

What I should perhaps explain, Sir, is the method of accounting in the Government of India for this type of transaction. The position is this: The cost of reciprocal aid is charged to the defence estimate and therefore the particular head of account which should be the beneficiary of Lend-Lease is also the defence estimate. Therefore when we supply Lend-Lease goods, when we pass them on to Provincial Governments or to Commercial Departments or paying departments, we charge it to them and raise a credit to the defence estimates. In this case, the Stationery and Printing Department has to serve many departments, including some paying departments, and therefore it is necessary to charge the Stationery and Printing Department with the cost of these Lend-Lease typewriters and so on, and they, in turn, of course will pass the debit on to the departments to whom the goods are actually supplied. That is the reason why this part of the Supplementary Grant has become necessary because at an earlier stage this method of accounting had not been settled upon. Once it is decided that a credit must be afforded for Lend-Lease goods to the defence estimates, then it is necessary to raise these debits.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, it is a very important question. May I know who is the person

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made his speech and it is not possible to go round and round.

The question is:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 62,81,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of ‘Stationery and Printing’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 71—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,09,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,09,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, this is composed of a large item of expenditure—payment to the UNRRA—and then, Sir, there is payment to the Permanent Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the promise that was made by the Member in charge of this Department. I refer to Sir Azizul Huque. While moving a motion for the acceptance of this organisation by the Legislature, he made certain promises to this House. I am sorry he is not here when this matter is being discussed. He made a promise that if and when the House approves of this organisation and on India joining that organisation, he will later on bring a motion before this House to fix the amount of contribution which this country is to pay to that organisation and more than that he said that the method of payment which this country chooses to make will be decided *i.e.*, whether in kind or in cash. He went further and said that if he has to make the payment in kind, he will consult the industries and the trading interests in this country, and then consider in what way the payment is to be made. Now, I will just read a few lines from his speech:

"I do not say that that is the amount which I shall bring before the Legislature; the House will have the fullest opportunity to decide what should be the amount of contribution at that stage. But that is roughly my personal guess."

In all sincerity he owes it to himself to table a Resolution in this House giving the figure which he thinks is good enough for contribution by this country. That has not been done. The Honourable the Finance Member in his speech makes a passing reference—I will not say passing reference—he makes a reference that it has been decided to contribute 8 crores of rupees to UNRRA. Is it honest to take decisions at the back of this House when there is a specific promise made on the floor of this House that this will be put before the House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I know.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Of course you know, but you forget.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: You have forgotten.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: He goes on:

"Then the question comes as to how much we should pay and in what shape. As I said, that will depend on the extent to which our supplies may be available. And assuming that we contribute about 8 or 10 crores of rupees or 7 million pounds, we may pay the whole of the 7 million pounds in foreign credit or pay only 7,00,000 pounds in foreign credit and the rest we can give in supplies. As I said, these are matters which can only be discussed after I am able to consult the trading and industrial organisation to find out whether there is a possibility of supplies being available, what are the things which we can spare that we want to spare. That is necessary; and I do not want to take that responsibility on me without consulting the trade and commercial interests"

And now, Sir, I find in the explanatory memorandum to the Budget that this money is expected to be sent in kind. Here it is said:

"India's contribution to U. N. E. R. A. has been fixed at 8 crores of which a sum of Rs. 1.10 is likely to be expended this year mainly to finance supplies required from India. The balance is being provided in the next year's budget. . . ."

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That does not mean that payment has been made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I do not say that you have paid all the amount; you have only paid 1.10 crores, but you have fixed the payment of 8 crores of rupees without consulting this House.

Secondly, I want to know whether you have consulted the trade interests and what supplies you are going to send from this country. I know that cloth and textiles have been sent out of this country to the great detriment of the civilian population of this country. He may come forward with any explanation, but the fact remains that we have suffered and I want to know what supplies he wants to send by way of help to U. N. R. R. A. The Government of India and some of our friends are more anxious to please and help other people outside the country than the poor people of this country. Sir, I want to know whether he consulted the trading interests, what are the articles that he has sent, and why he did not bring this matter before this House in the form of a specific Resolution.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: This is a very important matter and we have much to say. It is already five o'clock. Can we take it up to-morrow?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue his speech to-morrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 29th March, 1945.