

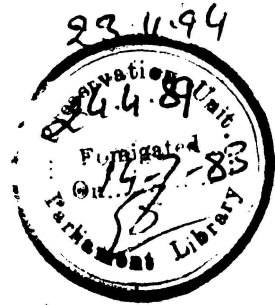
29th March 1945

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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## *President :*

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

## *Deputy President :*

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

## *Panel of Chairmen :*

**Mr. ABDUL QAIYUM, M.L.A.**

**Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.**

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

**Sir HENRY RICHARDSON, M.L.A.**

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## *Assistants of the Secretary :*

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

**Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.**

## *Marshal :*

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

## *Committee on Petitions :*

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**Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.**

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

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

**Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.**

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 29th March, 1945

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

## MEMBERS SWORN:

Mr. Yeshwant Narayan Sukthankar, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and

Mr. Sitaram Chintamani Joshi, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

#### SAFEGUARDING OF INDUSTRIES ACT

**1448. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) What action was taken by the Honourable the Commerce Member under the Safeguarding of Industries Act of 1933?

(b) Is this Act repealed and, if so, at what time and for what reasons?

(c) Was that Act dropped, because its provisions were in conflict with any of the provisions of the Government of India Act, viz. sections 111 to 121?

(d) Was any representation received by Government from commercial bodies against making the Safeguarding of Industries Act a dead letter and for reviving action similar to what was provided for in that Act?

(e) If so, from whom and at what time?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The action taken by the Government of India under this Act was explained in the course of the debates on the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1934, to which the Honourable Member's attention is invited.

(b) The Act was limited in duration to the 31st March 1935, and ceased to be in force after that date.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. But representations were received in 1937 from certain minor industries for assistance against Japanese competition. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to a list of these industries which was laid on the table of this House in reply to the unstarred question No. 20 by Professor N. G. Ranga on 4th February, 1938.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the apprehensions of distress after the war entertained by many industries now established, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of resuscitating an act with similar provisions for the safeguarding of these industries?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** The question is now under examination.

#### QUININE REQUIREMENTS

**1449. \*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether Government have calculated the total amount of quinine required for the country;

(b) how much is now available in India by way of quinine or quinine substitutes;

(c) what steps Government are taking to make up the balance; and

(d) what steps the Government are taking to see that they are also distributed to the people who need it at controlled prices?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) The average pre-war consumption of quinine was approximately 210,000 lbs.

(b) and (c). The total amount of quinine and quinine substitute at present available in India is approximately 500,000 lbs. in terms of quinine.

(d) The responsibility for distribution rests with Provincial Governments. Quinine is distributed through hospitals and dispensaries and through Government selling agencies. Quinine substitutes are distributed from Government depots to medical practitioners and retail chemists. The Bengal and Madras Governments have arranged for distribution in rural areas through post offices. The retail selling price of quinine substitutes has been fixed at  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna a tablet.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** I did not hear the answer to part (c) of the question. Will the Honourable Member kindly read his answer again?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** As the answer to part (a) is that the average consumption was 210,000 lbs. and the answer to part (b) is that we have available approximately 500,000 lbs. in terms of quinine, there is no deficit to make up.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** May I know if all this quinine is produced in India or is imported from outside?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** No quinine, of course, is imported from outside at present, because there is no source from which we can import. About 90,000 lbs. a year is produced in India.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** In view of the fact that the system of distribution being defective quinine does not reach the average citizen, will Government take some steps to improve the system of distribution?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** It is very difficult for the Central Government to take steps in what is the provincial part of the matter.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** May I know if there is any constitutional difficulty which prevents the Government of India from undertaking the responsibility of making India self-sufficient by themselves trying to produce quinine in this country?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** That is a multi-form question, Sir.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Could not quinine be sold in post offices as before?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I do not know that there is enough quinine. I see that quinine substitutes are being sold from post offices in two Provinces—Madras and Bengal.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Why not in other Provinces also?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order; next question.

#### TRADE TREATY OR AGREEMENT WITH CEYLON

1450. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the Honourable the Commerce Member got a trade treaty or any agreement relating to trade with the Government of Ceylon?

(b) Has any representation been received from the Government of Ceylon with regard to trade, and does that involve the handling of all trade with Ceylon by negotiations between the two Governments and the elimination of private trade?

(c) Have Government received any representation from Chambers of Commerce?

(d) What is Government's policy with regard to the functioning of private trade between the two countries, and what assurance can Government give that no attempt will be made to restrict the opportunities of private trade?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such representation has been received from the Ceylon Government.

(c) Representations urging maintenance of trade channels in regard to supplies to Ceylon have been received by Government.

(d) The Government of India's policy is to permit trade through normal trade channels, except where there are compelling reasons for authorising a departure from this policy.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member explain whether it was the Ceylon Government which wanted to interfere with the usual trade channels or whether it is the Government of India?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** In the public interest I am not prepared to disclose that.

**Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** There was a movement that all Indian traders and Indian labourers should be sent back to India. Is that movement still in existence?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am not aware of any such movement but we have received from time to time representations.

**BLACK MARKET FOR CLOTH IN ASSAM**

**1451. \*Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state whether he is aware that there is a serious black market for cloth in all the commercial and trading-centres of Assam; what steps has he taken or proposes to take so that the civilian population can procure their minimum required cloth in the open market?

(b) What is the total yardage of cloth that has been allocated for the whole population of Assam by the Textile Commissioner?

(c) Who are the members of the Textile Advisory Board for Assam, if there is such a Body to advise Government regarding allocation etc., for the province?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) Owing to general shortage of cloth, particularly of fine varieties, black marketing activities exist, to varying extent, in almost all the Commercial and trading centres in the country. The Government of India are not aware that such activities have assumed serious proportions in Assam.

Under the New Distribution Scheme the Central Government is confident of ensuring that Assam receives its allotted quantity of cloth regularly. Thereafter the Provincial Government, which will have full control over the distribution of the entire quota of cloth within the Province should be able substantially to reduce black-marketing.

(b) Assam, including Assam States, has been allotted a monthly quota of 9,109,000 yards of cloth on the basis of 10 yards per head per annum.

(c) Apparently the Honourable Member is referring to the Provincial Textile Advisory Committee. A list of members of the Textile Advisory Committee for Assam is placed on the table of the House.

*List of members of the Provincial Textile Advisory Committee for Assam*

1. The Honourable Sir Syed Muhammad Saadullah, Kt. Premier.—President.
  2. Alhaj Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan, M.L.A.
  3. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen, M.L.A.
  4. Maulavi Muzarraf Ali Sarkar, M.L.A.
  5. Srijut Surendra Nath Buragohain, M.L.A.
  6. Babu Samarendra Narayan Choudhury, M.L.C.
  7. Mr. A. Wittaker, C.I.E., M.L.A.
  8. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das, M.L.A.
  9. Mr. K. W. P. Marar, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Supply Department.
  10. Mr. M. Hadi Hussain, I.C.S., Additional Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Local Self Government, (Industries Department).
- The Additional Secretary, Local Self-Government (Industries) Department, will work as Secretary to the Committee.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** With reference to the reply to part (b) of the question the Honourable Member stated that so much cloth has been allotted and could he tell us that all that cloth has reached the place?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** We have been keeping a watch over all despatches to the different Provinces. As far as I am aware in the last few months we have been trying our best to see that the despatches reach the Provinces.

**Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether there is any controlled or fixed rate for handloom weaving?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** As far as I am aware, there is no price controlled or fixed for handloom cloth.

**MALARIA RAVAGES**

**1452. \*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the extent of the toll of malaria in the last and present financial years?

(b) In which part of the country is it mostly prevalent?

(c) How does it compare with the pre-war attack and mortality rates?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) In some Provinces deaths from malaria are separately recorded only in municipalities. A statement showing reported deaths from malaria for the years 1938 to 1943 is laid on the table. Figures for 1944 are not yet available. The reported figures cannot be relied on as entirely accurate as the reports are not based on a medical diagnosis.

(b) The main endemic areas are in Bengal, Assam, Bihar, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Berar, and Madras but the disease is prevalent and epidemics are liable to occur in other areas also.

(c) The available information including the recorded deaths from 'fevers' indicates that mortality from malaria was above the pre-war average in 1943 and the early part of 1944 in Bengal, Bihar and the Punjab. Attacks of malaria are not recorded.

*Statement showing reported deaths from Malaria in the different Provinces of British India during the year 1938-43.*

|                | 1938      | 1939      | 1940      | 1941      | 1942      | 1943      |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| British India  | 1,577,865 | 1,411,614 | 1,393,079 | 1,408,058 | 1,513,476 | 1,775,316 |
| N.W.F.P.*      | 50        | 30        | 36        | 93        | 67        | 70        |
| Punjab         | 5,015     | 2,477     | 3,218     | 4,366     | 1,938     | 6,861     |
| Delhi          | 315       | 243       | 329       | 283       | 1,149     | 952       |
| U.P.           | 819,057   | 754,168   | 717,319   | 707,456   | 747,462   | 800,694   |
| Bihar*         | 1,320     | 4,373     | 3,777     | 1,057     | †         | †         |
| Orissa*        | 489       | 592       | 497       | 589       | 378       | 769       |
| Bengal         | 416,521   | 341,321   | 369,448   | 388,381   | 426,573   | 674,330   |
| C.P.           | 302,250   | 276,432   | 265,265   | 269,233   | 285,573   | 254,109   |
| Bombay         | 29,790    | 28,833    | 29,602    | 32,099    | 28,906    | 32,819    |
| Sind           | 1,686     | 1,546     | 2,106     | 2,731     | 2,911     | 2,498     |
| Madras*        | 1,190     | 1,394     | 1,271     | 1,335     | 1,827     | 1,787     |
| Coorg.         |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Assam*         | 181       | 202       | 197       | 205       | 256       | 290       |
| Ajmer-Merwara* | 1         | 3         | 14        | 215       | 436       | 137       |

\* For municipalities only.

† Not available.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government enquire whether it is not a fact that malaria is spreading to new areas and that it is becoming endemic in a larger number of towns?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** We will examine that.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** What is the percentage of increase in mortality recorded in the three Provinces mentioned by the Honourable Member?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** That is very difficult to say. As we have not got figures of attacks, it is very difficult to say what the proportionate increase, if any, in mortality is.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** In view of the fact that the disease is widespread, what steps are Government taking to fight malaria?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** Widespread distribution of quinine and quinine products.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** The Honourable Member said that figures are available only for urban areas. Does he mean to suggest that no records are kept for rural areas?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** No, Sir: but figures are recorded only for municipal areas in N. W. F. P., Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Ajmere, and apparently in Madras—I am not quite sure whether it is Madras or Sind but in the other provinces figures are recorded for rural areas as well.

**Lala Sharn Lal:** May I know if Punjab is affected by malaria?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** Yes.

#### NON-INDIAN COMPANIES BEING SET UP IN INDIA

**1453. \*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether there has been lately a growth of non-Indian companies being set up in India and styling themselves as India Limited at the end of their names;

(b) whether Government have investigated into the matter of their origin, capital and personnel;

(c) if so, the number of such companies now; and

(d) what action he proposes to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) (i) Five companies registered outside British India with the words 'India Limited' at the end of their names established places of business in India during the four years ending 1942-43; and

(ii) 108 companies were registered in India with those words at the end of their names during the five years ending 1943-44.

In regard to (ii), it is not known how many of these companies are owned by non-Indians. It is, however, apparent that there has been no remarkable growth during recent years of non-Indian companies of the nature mentioned.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is not proposed to take any action for the present.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** He says 'for the present': Does he propose to take any action in the future?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** It depends on the nature of the development.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know the capital involved?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am quite certain that the majority of them are not from outside. At a casual glance I find from the names—such as P. C. Roy & Co.—that they are not of foreign origin.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government please place a list of the companies on the table of the House?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** If you require it, I will certainly place a list.

**Mr. K. O. Neogy:** May I know what significance is to be attached to certain observations made in the second report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council at page 23 where it is stated:

"It is a matter for consideration whether action should not be taken to check the growing tendency for companies domiciled abroad to establish branches or subsidiaries in India for the purpose of both import and internal distribution."

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** That refers to a tendency. I am expressing in terms of facts. Tendency is a tendency. I am expressing what is the actual fact. But if there is anything as has been expressed in the report, I have no doubt that necessary steps will be taken to check it.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will they please investigate the matter and place the result before the Standing Committee for Commerce Department?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I could do it if the House will agree to expand my staff.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** May I know whether any company has been registered with American capital?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Not to my knowledge. I have got a list, but from that I do not think I can find out the caste, creed, colour, or country of the company.

#### APPLICATION FOR HAJ PASSAGE BY MR. HABIBUR RAHMAN OF SYLHET

1454. **\*Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. Habibur Rehman, son of late Mr. Saman Ali of Satgori, post office Kanaiabazar, Sylhet, applied for a Haj passage on the 11th September, 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that, with reference to his application dated the 11th September, 1944, the said Mr. Habibur Rehman was issued with a reservation card No. 2611 requiring his presence on the 2nd October, 1944 at Karachi?

(c) Is it a fact that the said applicant presented himself at the Haji's Camp on the 2nd October, 1944 and Mr. Waziffadar made an order to the Mogul Line for the issue of a ticket by the first batch?

(d) Is it a fact that the Mogul Line refused to issue the ticket in consultation with the Haj Officer?

(e) What were the circumstances under which the Haj Officer permitted the Shipping Company to refuse tickets against the Government of India reservation cards?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Yes.

(b) According to the original reservation card issued to him, he ought to have reached Karachi not later than the 1st October, 1944, but he actually arrived there on the 2nd October and a fresh reservation card was issued to him.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. Mr. Habibur Rahman himself did not register his name at the office of the 'Mogul Line' for a ticket for the first sailing as directed.

(e) The question does not arise.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** With reference to part (d) of the question, where in it is stated that the 'Mogul Line' refused to issue the ticket in consultation with the Haj Officer, is there any such thing? Was the Haj Officer consulted in not issuing a ticket?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Not at all.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** In view of the fact that a number of pilgrims have been put to trouble, may I know what steps the Honourable Member has taken to prevent such unfortunate happenings in future?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I know certain difficulties might have arisen, certain inconvenience might have been caused, but we know very well that pilgrims have failed to report in time.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Does the Honourable Member know whether the Port Haj Committee

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** All complaints are inquired into, and whatever is possible is done.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know if the inquiring officer is an independent officer? It is no use having an inquiry by the officer concerned. We must have an independent agency for such an inquiry.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Officers cannot inquire into complaints against themselves; that is obvious.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** Has the Haj Officer the authority to permit or not to permit the issue of a ticket?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I want notice of that question.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** In view of the fact that the rules on the matter are technical, will the Honourable Member see that people do not suffer on that account?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Government will do their best.

**Haj Passage for Mr. Mohammad Kala Mian of Village Mayani**

**1455. \*Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that reservation card No. 157, dated the 16th September, 1944, was issued to Mr. Mohammad Kala Mian, son of the late Mohammad Husain Ali Bhyani, village Mayani, post office Abutrab directing his presence at Karachi on the 1st October, 1944, with reference to his application, dated the 31st August, 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Mr. Mohammad Kala Mian arrived at the Haji's Camp on the 1st October, 1944 with a passport from his district, dated the 27th September, 1944?

(c) Is it a fact that the said pilgrim was directed to the Imperial Bank of India, Karachi, for payment of Hedjaz dues, and that he paid on the 1st October, 1944 in the Imperial Bank, Karachi, Rs. 714-12-0?

(d) What were the circumstances under which he was not given passage in the first batch?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). He did not present himself at the Hajj Booking Office at any time before the date of the sailing of the first batch of pilgrim ships and could not therefore obtain a ticket.

#### Hajj Passage for One Mr. Jamaluddin

**1456. \*Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that reservation card No. 2553 was issued to one Mr. Jamaluddin, son of Jamal Mia, directing him to reach Karachi on the 2nd October, 1944, with reference to his application, dated the 31st August, 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that the above named pilgrim arrived in the Hajj's Camp on the 2nd October, 1944, but was not given a steamer ticket? If so, why?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) and (b). Reservation card No. 2553 was issued to him on arrival at Karachi on the 2nd October 1944 which he himself failed to present to the shipping company for securing a ticket as directed.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know if this particular pilgrim reached the Hajj Camp on the day specified?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare :** I believe he must have.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Why was he not allowed to travel?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** He himself failed to present the card. It was his fault.

#### Hajj Passage for Mr. Rehman Ali of Village Mayani

**1457. \*Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that one Mr. Rehman Ali Sarang, son of the late Ala Buksh Bhyan of village Mayani, post office Abutarab, Chittagong, was issued with reservation card No. 202, dated the 16th September, 1944, directing his presence on the 1st October, 1944 at Karachi?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Mr. Rehman Ali along with his twenty-eight colleagues reached Karachi on the 1st October, 1944?

(c) Is it a fact that the said Mr. Rehman Ali and his colleagues paid the Hedjaz charges on the 2nd October, 1944?

(d) Is it a fact that the said pilgrim and his colleagues were in possession of pilgrim passes, dated the 27th September 1944, from the Bengal authorities?

(e) Why were these pilgrims not provided with tickets for the first batch?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Yes.

(b), (c), (d) and (e). Haji Rehman Ali Sarang did not present his reservation card to the Hajj Booking Officer at any time before the date of the first sailing and could not therefore get a steamer ticket. As the names of Mr. Sarang's colleagues have not been stated I cannot give any information regarding them.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know if these 29 persons had to go back or where they had to go?

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

**Seth Yusuf Abdoolia Haroon:** The Honourable Member made the statement that these persons did not present themselves. They did present themselves I was present there myself, I took them up to the office, but they were short of staff and they could not issue the reservation cards.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot argue a matter like that now.

#### Hajj Passage for Certain Holders of Reservation Cards

**1458. \*Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that holders of reservation cards Nos. 2552, 2515 and 2622 arrived in Karachi in time for the first batch?

(b) Is it a fact that steamer tickets were not issued in exchange for the above mentioned reservation cards? If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that three days before the scheduled departure of steamers, one steamer was released by the Hajj Officer for cargo service with less than 100 pilgrims?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) and (b). The persons concerned arrived at Karachi after the 30th September 1944 the last date prescribed for the arrival of pilgrims of the first batch. They were given reservation cards on the 2nd October 1944 which were not presented by them to the shipping company for tickets as directed.

(c) No.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Does the Honourable Member realise that it may be possible for the officials concerned to put forward these technicalities to get over these difficulties? These people are being put to a lot of trouble—they come from very long distances only to be turned back from Karachi.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** If they fail to present their cards themselves, I do not know who can help them.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know if the Honourable Member has appointed some officer to help the pilgrims to observe these prescribed technicalities?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Certainly.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know what is the report of that officer about these cases which I have mentioned?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I cannot give a report of other cases. This is the information I have got from the report itself.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Has the Honourable Member ever gone to Karachi to see the arrangements there?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** No; I had not the good fortune to go there.

#### PRODUCTION OF TOBACCO

1459. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state how the total production of tobacco in the latest year, for which the figures are available, compares with such production in the year 1938-39?

(b) Has there been any diminution since the peak was reached on account of the "Grow More Food" campaign?

(c) What efforts have been made and with what success for the growth of superior quality of tobacco in India?

(d) Have any special strains been developed in India, or strains planted from Philippines, Cuba, or U. S. A. or any other country?

(e) Who has, on behalf of Government, undertaken the research with regard to methods of curing tobacco, and for how long, at what cost and with what results?

(f) When do Government expect the arrival of Burma cheroots and Manila cigars to this country, and will the revival of this trade affect the growth of tobacco or its demand for the local cigar factories?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) The latest year for which figures for production of tobacco are available is 1942-43. The total production during this year was 4,81,000 tons as compared with 4,91,000 tons in 1938-39.

(b) There was a decrease from 12,92,000 acres in 1941-42 to 11,27,000 acres in 1942-43, due in part to the Grow More Food campaign and in part to other causes.

(c) and (d). The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research have been financing a Tobacco Research Sub-station at Guntur for several years. Work has also been carried out by the Central Government at Pusa, by several provincial Governments and by the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Co. As regards Virginia cigarette tobacco, the variety found to be generally most suitable for Indian conditions is Harrison's special. This is now being grown from seed produced in India, instead of depending on seed imported from the U.S.A. A new variety has been evolved at Guntur (Amarlo 5) which gives a brighter coloured leaf. Improved varieties of *hookah* tobacco (Pusa 18) and *Bidi* tobacco (K 49) have also been evolved at Pusa and in Bombay respectively and are grown on a wide scale. Some experimental work has also been undertaken in Bengal for the production of Java, Sumatra and Manila tobacco with imported seed.



(e) The tobacco research sub-station, Guntur has been carrying out research on methods of tobacco flue-curing since 1937-38. Experiments are still being conducted and it is premature to indicate results. Extensive research work in this direction is contemplated, to be undertaken by the proposed Indian Central Tobacco Committee.

It is not possible to indicate the cost involved in the experiments inasmuch as curing is one of the several items of the programme of work of the Tobacco Research Sub-station, Guntur.

(f) (i) The arrival of Burma charoots and Manila cigars may be expected when normal conditions return.

(ii) It is not possible to say at present the extent to which the growth of tobacco and its demand for local cigar factories will be affected by the import of these articles from Burma.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Do Government expect to obviate the need for imported tobacco for mixing in cigarette making in this country at any time?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I must ask for notice of that.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is any research being carried on for eradicating the pest that is damaging this crop, about which I had already asked last Session?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I do not know.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is any effort being made to increase the productivity or yield per acre of the tobacco being grown in Guntur district and other places in order to reduce the total area under tobacco so that it may be converted for growing other crops under the Grow More Food Campaign?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I do not know whether it is with a view to diverting land to food crops, but obviously improvement of the yield must be one of the objects of research.

#### ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

1460. \***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India proposed economic sanctions against South Africa but the proposal was rejected by His Majesty's Government; and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to move again in the matter and persuade His Majesty's Government to agree to their proposal; if not, why not?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** Do I understand that the Government of India did not take up this question or that the information is of a confidential nature?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** No; as I stated before in the House, the matter is certainly under consideration, but Government has not taken any final decision yet in the matter. It is still under consideration and when the decision will be taken, certainly it will be made known.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are the Government considering the question of recalling the High Commissioner from South Africa?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** It does not arise out of this.

**Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee:** May we know when the Government are likely to arrive at a decision?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** As I have said before, negotiations are still going on and the Honourable Member will understand that no decision can be taken when negotiations are still going on.

#### INDUSTRIALISTS' MISSION TO BRITAIN

1461. \***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state on what basis the composition of the mission of big industrialists, which is proceeding to the United Kingdom is determined?

(b) Has any proposal been received for the inclusion amongst them of a representative of Indian shipping and shipbuilding interests?

(c) If so, what decision, if any, have Government reached on this proposal?

(d) What agenda, terms of reference, material or programme has been fixed in connection with this deputation?

(e) Is any official accompanying them from India, or will they be piloted by officials of the India Office?

(f) Is this delegation expected to submit any report to the Government of India?

(g) If so, will such a report be made available to the Legislature?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The industrialists concerned were selected in view of the position they occupy in the Indian industrial world.

(b) Yes.

(c) The number of industrialists in the party has necessarily to be limited. It is not, therefore, possible to include representatives of every industry in it.

(d) There is to be no agenda. The visit will be unofficial in character and the members of the party will be free to arrange their programme and discuss any matter, unfettered by any terms of reference or any form of Government control.

(e) It is the intention, in compliance with the wishes of the members of the party, to send, if possible, an official from India as secretary to the party.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the Nuffield-Birla combination about which a statement has been made from London, and the apprehensions roused amongst the industrialists of this country, will the Government reconsider their decision with regard to this deputation and drop the deputation?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I do not see any justification for dropping the deputation even if there be some discussion between one Indian concern and one British concern as to their future business arrangements; we have got firm control over our future plans.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** What safeguards are Government contemplating to protect the progress of industry in India and keep it in Indian hands instead of in the hands of large cartels and combinations?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a large question which the Honourable Member is raising.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** I am asking whether the Government are giving any hints to this deputation if that deputation is not to result in these world combinations?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I completely repudiate the idea that this deputation is being arranged for any purpose except to serve the best industrial interests of India, and there is no idea in the mind of Government that there will be anything to justify the fear which is in the mind of my Honourable friend.

#### SARASWATI VALLEY PROJECT AT AJMER

**1462. \*Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the water-works scheme known as the Saraswati Valley Project was started in 1941 or 1942 at Ajmer and that all work thereon has now stopped; and

(b) if Government propose to consider the necessity of restarting the work in view of the water scarcity at Ajmer?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) and (b). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to starred question No. 648 on the 5th March, 1945.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Has there been any further progress since then?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** We are trying again to see whether the material is available.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** The Honourable Member is certainly aware of the deep discontent in Ajmer for want of water; and may I take it that the Government is seriously considering the projects?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** Yes, Sir.

## REPORT ON WORKING OF FOOD ADMINISTRATION IN AJMER-MERWARA

1463. \*Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Food be pleased to state:

(a) if he has received the results of the enquiry held into the affairs of the working of his department in Ajmer-Merwara by the Food Commissioner and Food Regional Commissioner and the steps, if any, he has taken as a result of the report; and

(b) if the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara has issued the notification saying that the public shall have to accept wheat and barley in the future with an admixture of 30 per cent. of dust, etc.; and if the department's consent in the matter has been secured?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) No formal enquiry was held, but the Chief Commissioner, assisted by officers of my Department has effected much improvement in the food administration of Ajmer-Merwara.

(b) No, Sir.

**Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Is it a fact that the Food Department is compelling purely rice eaters to take wheat to the extent of one-sixth of their ration?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I submit that does not arise out of the question on the paper.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Is this being done in Ajmer Merwara?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** No.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** With reference to the reply to part (b), will he please inquire into this matter, because I have information that such a notification has been issued?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I am afraid the information which my Honourable friend has got is not correct. I have inquired into the matter.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Let him give rice or wheat but without mud.

## CONTROLLED RATES OF PRICE OF RICE IN DHANBAD SUB-DIVISION

1464. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the present local controlled rates of price per maund of the different kinds of rice in Dhanbad Sub-Division in the Province of Bihar?

(b) At what rates is the Provincial Government charging the two Coal Trade Organisations for supplying rice for the benefit of colliery labour? Is any incidental charge realised by that Government from the said Organisations in addition to the controlled price of rice in Dhanbad Sub-Division? If so, at what rate and for what reasons?

(c) Has any complaint been received recently from the Indian Collieries Union stating that the Joint Pools are still charging from its members approximately Rs. 4 per maund of rice, over and above the local controlled prices?

(d) Has any comprehensive report been obtained by Government in this or any connected matter, from the Welfare Commissioner who is stationed at Dhanbad?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) The wholesale control rates for rice in Dhanbad Sub-Division are Rs. 11/- and Rs. 12/- per maund for coarse and medium qualities respectively. The corresponding retail rates for the 2 qualities of rice are -/4/7½ and -/5/- per seer.

(b) The Provincial Government are charging the two coal trade organisations the basic wholesale control rate at the source of supply of Rs. 9/- per maund for coarse and Rs. 10/- per maund for medium quality plus -/4/- per maund to cover administrative charges. The organisations have to pay in addition the cost of the bags and the actual incidental charges incurred in effecting despatches of rice from the source of supply to the consuming centres.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** With regard to (b), is the Honourable Member in a position to tell the House whether the resulting price which is charged to the collieries is higher than the local controlled price, having regard to all the different levies which are paid?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I am afraid I have not made any calculations.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** That is really the point of the complaint.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** My Honourable friend can make the calculations.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** With regard to (d), I take it that this officer is an officer of the Government of India?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Yes.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** In view of the frequent complaints received in regard to this question, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of obtaining a report from this officer as regards these matters?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** This work will not fall within the purview of his duties. This is a matter for the Provincial Governments.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** The Honourable Member is aware that the complaint amounts to this, that the Provincial Government is not fully co-operating with the Central Government in the matter of making rice supplies to the collieries reasonably cheap?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I will get into touch with the Provincial Government, but I do not think I can ask the Coal Welfare Commissioner to deal with this matter.

#### PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

**1465. \*Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual total production of sugar in the country;
- (b) whether production has increased since 1939;
- (c) the annual total exports of this country and to what places it was exported;
- (d) how the present shortage is explained;
- (e) the basis of distribution of sugar to various provinces; and
- (f) whether the production in Native States is also taken into consideration?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) The total annual production of sugar in India has varied between 10 and 12 lakh tons in recent years.

(b) Production was highest in 1939-40, and 1943-44, at about 12½ lakh tons, but was not so high in the intervening three years.

(c) The annual total exports are about 17,000 tons of sugar to neighbouring countries.

(d) The present shortage is due to increase in population, increased requirements of the Defence Services, the relatively high increase in urban population which is the main consumer of sugar, and higher purchasing capacity of the public. It is also due to the estimated fall in production in the current year.

(e) The available supply of sugar is distributed to various Provinces and States on the basis of their pre-war average consumption during the years 1935-36 to 1938-39. Adjustments are, however, made in special circumstances.

(f) Yes.

**Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** With reference to (c), is it not a fact that the Provinces are not getting even their 1935 average quota even today?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I am not aware. I am giving them according to the average consumption during that year.

**Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** They are not getting that quota even today?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** What province does the Honourable Member refer to? If it is Madras, I will inquire into the matter. I am not aware that Madras is not getting its quota.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Is the shortage of sugar due to shortage of cane plantation?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I do not think it arises out of this question.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** It does arise. How is the present shortage explained?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** There are a number of causes for the present shortage. One of them is smaller cultivation of cane.

#### NON-INCREASE IN SIZE OF RATION IN MALABAR

**1466. \*Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Madras in charge of Food made a statement in the Madras Provincial Food Council that the size of ration in Malabar could not be increased to 1 lb. per adult per day, because Railways were not placing enough wagons to carry the grains to West Coast; if so, whether it was true; and

(b) if the wagons are available now to carry foodgrains to West Coast; if not, do Government propose to arrange for alternative transport for the said purpose?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) and (b). I understand that the Adviser said that the main difficulty was transportation. Arrangements to overcome this have been made.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Now that the wagons are available, from when will the increased ration of one pound per day be given?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** As soon as the stuff is there to make the ration one pound a day possible.

**Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Has any inquiry been made to find out whether one pound of rice is sufficient for a man who can eat more than that?

#### HIGHER SIZE OF RATION IN DELHI

**1467. \*Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have accepted the principle involved in resolution No. 1(b) of the 5th All India Food Conference, namely, that until all deficit areas can be ensured sufficient supplies to enable them to sustain a basic ration of 1 lb. of cereals per adult per day, the size of the basic ration in any area should not exceed that quantity; if so, why the size of ration in Delhi is still kept at 18 ozs. while in Malabar it is 12 ozs.;

(b) whether any time limit was given to Provincial Governments and States to conform to the principles laid down in that Conference;

(c) the size of the supplementary ration agreed to be given to manual workers, and if the cultivators of foodgrains come under that class; if not, why not;

(d) whether he is aware that in the Madras Presidency a child up to 2 years is not entitled to any ration;

(e) the sanction behind the resolutions of the All India Food Conference; and

(f) whether Government propose to keep a constant watch over all Governments and direct them to follow the resolutions to which they are parties?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) The principle of the Resolution has been accepted. It lays down the size of the basic ration in urban areas assuming that in addition a supplementary ration is provided for heavy manual workers. Where no such supplementary ration is provided, as in the case of Delhi, the Government of India are prepared to allow a higher basic ration up to a limit of 8 lbs. per week.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No scale has been laid down; but in urban rationing administrations are advised, subject to supplies being available, to aim at the provision of a supplementary ration for heavy manual workers upto 50 per cent. of the Basic ration. Cultivators of foodgrains are not excluded from the category of heavy manual workers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) They have the force of recommendations to the Government of India, embodying a large measure of agreement and common purpose between Provincial and State Governments, on the subjects with which they deal.

(f) The Government of India will make every endeavour to that end.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that in several towns in the Madras Presidency cultivators living in urban areas are not treated as coming within the category of heavy manual labourers, will the Government of India issue definite instructions to see that these people are included within that category?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** We have already done so, as I have stated in my answer.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The Honourable Member only said that they are not excluded from this category. It does not mean that they are to be included. In either case, the agricultural worker who does heavy manual labour takes much more food than one pound, as was mentioned by my Honourable friend Mr. Rangiah Naidu.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** The negative includes the positive.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What is the objection to give a definite instruction on the lines I have suggested, unless the Honourable Member has got any mental reservation?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I will with pleasure draw the attention of the Madras Government to this matter.

#### COMPULSION ON TEXTILE MILLS TO PURCHASE LEASE-LEND GOODS

**1468. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if it is a fact that textile mills are compelled to purchase Lease-Lend goods under compulsion and threat such as is contained in the following letter, from T. P. Barat, signing for Textile Commissioner, addressed to cotton mills in India, dated the 19th February, 1945:

"Please refer to this Office Circular No. CX2(8)/LL/17955, dated 27th December 1944, for which I hold your acknowledgment, requesting you to place orders for gross Lease-Lend Shuttles with Messrs. Nowrosjee Wadia & Sons, Bombay. It is observed that you have not so far acted in accordance with these instructions.

2. In this connection you are informed that the Mill-Stores and Priority Assistance Committee of the Textile Control Board have recommended that if you do not place order for Lease-Lend Shuttles with Messrs. Nowrosjee Wadia and Sons Ltd., Bombay, under advice to this Office within 14 days from the receipt of this letter, *all assistance to you for procuring stores, fuel, cotton, etc., would be suspended forthwith.*

3 You are therefore requested to place your orders for the full quantity of shuttles concerned within the time limit specified above; otherwise this office would have no option but to act on the recommendations of the Mill-stores and Priority Assistance Committee?"

(b) What is the total quantity of shuttles so imported? How does the price, at which they are to be taken from a specified single firm, compare with the pre-war price and with the price of shuttles manufactured in this country?

(c) Have Government given any assistance to shuttle manufacturers of India and have they considered the effect of their action on those who have produced shuttles in India during the war?

(d) What is the object of shuttling out stores, fuel, and cotton from people who do not place orders for shuttles as called upon, because they have adequate number in stock?

(e) Is it a fact that the Lease-Lend shuttles work out at Rs. 125 per dozen as against the local price of Rs. 60 to 70 and the British price of Rs. 75 per dozen, and is it also a fact that the Lease-Lend shuttles have been found inferior and unsuitable for the requirements of looms in India?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) Yes. It is not however under threat or compulsion that the mills are asked to purchase these Lease-Lend shuttles as would be apparent from the answers below.

(b) 1,000 gross. The average pre-war price of imported shuttles was Rs. 20/- per dozen. Prior to the introduction of control over selling price of shuttles on the 31st December, 1942, the price of indigenous and imported shuttles ranged between Rs. 225/- and 300/- per dozen. The order for the Lease-Lend shuttles was placed on the 30th September, 1942, at a price of Rs. 125/- per dozen. The maximum price for the imported shuttles was fixed on the 31st December 1942, at Rs. 84/- per dozen. The revised ceiling price due to improved supply position and distribution and price control is now Rs. 75/- per dozen. Indigenous shuttles manufacturers were not able to manufacture at these rates and accordingly their prices were not subjected to control.

(c) Yes, but unfortunately it has been impossible to procure supplies of suitable timber out of which satisfactory shuttles can be manufactured in India.

(d) Those shuttles were imported by Government at the express wish and on the recommendation of the mill industry through their representatives on the Mill-stores and Priority Assistance Committee of the Textile Control Board. In these circumstances this Committee has ruled that it is only fair that any mill which can use these shuttles should receive its share on a *pro-rata* basis irrespective of their cost and any such mill refusing to purchase these shuttles would be deprived of any Government assistance to procure essential millstores like fuel, cotton etc.

(e) Yes. These shuttles are inferior to English shuttles but they are not unsuitable for use in the mills to whom they have been allotted.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member give an assurance that all assistance would be rendered to the local shuttle manufacturers who have helped this country during the war period by permitting them to import the necessary wood from outside and make the dollar exchange available to them, if a representation is sent to the Honourable Member?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I received a representation and I had a long discussion with the Bharat Timber works at Bombay, if I remember the name aright, and I am having that question examined as to what extent this industry can be developed within India?

**Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar:** Is the Honourable Member aware that shuttles received from America were not delivered by the manufacturers in accordance with specifications sent out from here by the Textile Stores Controller?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am not aware of that. I shall make enquiry into that. I admit they are inferior to English shuttles, but they were ordered at a time when there were no shuttles available and it was on the recommendation of the Committee we did it and it is only fair that any mill which can use these shuttles should receive its share.

**Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar:** It is not a question of inferiority. Is the Honourable Member aware that it is difficult to use these shuttles because they are not in accordance with specifications of shuttles which we ordinarily use in this country?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** This is a point quite outside the question which was put by my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, but in view of the specific question which he has raised, if my Honourable friend drops a line to me, I will have the specific question examined.

#### AREA UNDER IRRIGATION IN BALUCHISTAN

†1469. **\*Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the total area brought under irrigation in Baluchistan since the war began;

(b) how much of such area was brought under irrigation by Government and how much by private enterprise;

(c) the total amount spent by the Government on such projects; and

(d) whether any sums were advanced to Zamindars for bringing land under irrigation?.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a), (b) and (c). No substantial areas have been brought under irrigation in Baluchistan since the war began; but two flood control schemes, sanctioned by Government, costing about Rs. 68,000, will add about 1,000 acres. As a result of more intensive cultivation of lands under irrigation and expansion of dry farming coupled with the Administration's procurement measures, Baluchistan has become a surplus province with wheat, paddy and Jowari for export to other provinces.

(d) The information is being collected.

#### LIQUOR SHOPS IN VICINITY OF RAILWAY COAL MINES

**1470. \*Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that there are liquor shops in the vicinity of Railway coal mines; and, if so, the days and hours when they are open;

(b) whether the management of these mines are aware that these liquor shops tempt miners to waste their wages on drink and ruin their health and that, consequently, the attendance of the miners and the output of coal in the mines on the day following the pay-day is adversely affected;

(c) if the reply to (b) above is in the negative, whether Government propose to call for a report on the matter; and

(d) whether Government also propose to ask the authorities concerned either to abolish liquor shops in mining areas, or to restrict the hours of opening and the quantity of liquor sold per individual and to close them fully on pay-days?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) Yes. There are liquor shops in the vicinity of coalmines owned by railways as well as by others. I regret I have at present no information about the days and hours of opening but I shall obtain it and place it on the table of the House.

(b) No.

(c) Government will call for a general report on the relations between drink and the health and production of miners.

(d) Excise administration is a Provincial subject. On receiving a report, however, Government will consider if any recommendations appear necessary in regard to liquor shops.

I should add that about December 1944, the retail prices for distillery liquor in the Bihar coalfields was increased and the Provincial Government is watching the effect of this increase of prices before considering any other action to restrict the consumption of liquor. A report received last year from Bengal suggests that there has been no evidence of excessive consumption of drink in the Bengal coalfields area.

**Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Sir, in view of the fact that the coal situation is very grave in this country and that it is necessary to have the utmost output from coal mines, will Government consider the importance of taking immediate steps to close down the liquor shops in their vicinity, even though it is a provincial matter?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I am afraid we have no control as the Honourable Member suggests.

**Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** May I know if the liquor shops were located in the vicinity with the consent of the Local Government?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I say, that is a matter for Provincial Government.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR RAILWAY COAL MINERS' CHILDREN

**1471. \*Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether there are any primary schools for children of the miners working in the Railway-owned coal mines; and, if so, the number of schools and pupils—boys and girls—attending each of them;

(b) whether the number of schools and pupils has increased or decreased since June, 1939, and what the difference now is;



(c) whether these schools are co-educational, and if there are women teachers on their staff;

(d) if a midday meal is provided to the pupils at these schools; and, if not, why not;

(e) whether these schools are under entire or partial management of the Coal Mine Authorities or under some other local authorities; and

(f) what steps Government are taking to promote elementary education among miners?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) Yes. I regret I have no detailed information about the numbers of schools but I shall obtain it. As regards the number of children of miners attending the schools, it will not be easy to obtain the information as the schools are open to other children as well.

(b), (c) and (d). I have no information but I shall obtain it and place it on the table of the House.

(e) The schools are under the management of the Hazaribagh Mines Board to which the Railway collieries make financial contribution.

(f) The responsibility for educational facilities is primarily that of the Provincial Governments.

**Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Sir, the Honourable Member told us the other day that there is a welfare committee, may I ask if the Honourable Member will draw their attention to the suggestions that I have made in this question and also get a record of the children of the miners who attend the schools?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** There is nothing to prohibit the Welfare Committee from interesting themselves in this and taking action in the matter.

**Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** I want to know, Sir, if the Government will give instructions to this Committee to give their attention to these matters?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Yes, it might do, there is nothing to prevent the committee from doing it.

#### CALCUTTA MARWARI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S STATEMENT RE COTTON TEXTILES SUPPLIED TO BENGAL

**1472. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies been drawn to a statement, issued by the Marwari Chamber of Commerce of Calcutta, published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated Calcutta, the 16th March, 1945 (3rd Dak Edition) and other newspapers, questioning the accuracy of official statements to the effect that Bengal received more than her quota of cotton textiles during the period of six months ending December, 1944?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please make a comprehensive statement dealing with the various points of criticism raised by the said Chamber?

(c) On which dates was any embargo imposed on the exportation of cotton cloth and yarn to Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan, respectively, and from what sources did these countries use to obtain their supplies of cotton cloth and yarn prior to the imposition of the said embargo?

(d) Is any preventive staff of the Central Customs Department posted at any point on the communication routes between India on the one hand and Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan, respectively, on the other, and what are the duties of the said staff with reference to any traffic in cotton yarn and textiles?

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

(b) (i) The Textile Commissioner has converted the figures of actual despatches in terms of yards as revealed in the customs figures into bales at the rate of 1,500 yards to one bale.

(ii) It was decided to fix a separate quota for Assam on the representation of the Assam authorities, who claimed that they were not receiving their share of cloth out of the total allotment to the Bengal deficit zone.

(iii) The question of taking account of the increases in population since that date and the revision of quotas is now under consideration.

(iv) The Textile Commissioner had in January last invited all Provincial Governments to furnish any reliable and verifiable figures to him in regard to their internal cloth production, if they felt that the basis on which the Textile Commissioner had proceeded to fix the allotments was incorrect. The Textile Commissioner will undertake a revision of the quotas as soon as he receives this information from Bengal and other Provincial Governments.

I am placing a full statement replying to all the points raised in the Chamber's statement on the table.

(c) No embargo on export of cloth and yarn to Tibet and Nepal has been imposed by the Central Government. Certain quantities of textiles have always been exported to these countries from India but procurement of cloth specifically for export is now impossible except against export licenses issued by or under the orders of the Central Government within the prescribed quota. The question of embargo on exports to Bhutan does not arise as it is treated as part of India in the Bengal deficit zone for the purpose of the scheme of distribution of cloth and yarn.

(d) Yes. The Central Excise staff is posted at the communication routes between India on the one hand and Nepal and Bhutan on the other hand; but such staff is not doing any customs preventive work at present. In regard to the communication routes between India and Tibet the necessary control is being exercised by staff under the control of the Political Officer, Sikkim.

\* Statement.

(i) The Maiwari Chamber contends that the basis of one bale being equal to 1,500 yards, which is assumed by the Textile Commissioner, is wrong. This criticism is based on a misapprehension of the position. Despatches to Bengal have been mostly by sea and the Textile Commissioner has converted the figures of actual despatches in terms of yards as revealed in the customs figures into bales at the rate of 1,500 yds. to one bale. If a smaller yardage content for a bale had been assumed by him, that would merely have given a higher number of bales but would not have affected the total number of yardage despatched to Bengal.

(ii) The next point made by the Chamber is that huge quantities of cloth had been exported to Assam from Bengal up to the 7th November 1944 on which date export to Assam was banned. Again, this criticism is based on wrong information. For a time Assam was treated as part of the Bengal deficit zone and cloth which was despatched to Bengal included her requirements also. Because of this fact, the total quota allotted to the Bengal deficit zone was arrived at on the basis of the total population of the two Provinces. It was decided to fix a separate quota for Assam on the representation of the Assam authorities, who claimed that they were not receiving their share of cloth out of the total allotment to the Bengal deficit zone. In other words, so far from Bengal having suffered because of exports during this period to Assam, Bengal actually appears to have gained to the extent of the quantities which may have failed, for any reason, to pass on to Assam.

(iii) The next point raised is that no account is taken of the increased population of Bengal. This is correct. In the absence of any definite information as to the extent of increase for the purposes of allotting cloth throughout the country, the Textile Commissioner has worked on the basis of the 1941 census figures. The question of taking account of the increases in population since that date and the revision of quotas is now under consideration.

(iv) The Chamber maintains that the estimate of the output of local mill and handloom production, which has been assumed by the Textile Commissioner for the purposes of arriving at the quota which Bengal should receive from outside, is incorrect. The Textile Commissioner had in January last invited all Provincial Governments to furnish any reliable and verifiable figures to him in regard to their internal cloth production, if they felt that the basis on which the Textile Commissioner had proceeded to fix the allotments was incorrect. The Textile Commissioner will undertake a revision of the quotas as soon as he receives this information from Bengal and other Provincial Governments.

Other points raised in the Chamber's statement relate to internal distribution.

**Mr. K. O. Neogy:** Has the Honourable Member satisfied himself that whoever may be the authority for exercising check over smuggling to Tibet and Sikkim is doing it efficiently?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** There has recently been a conference over that question and we have brought it to the special notice of the Political Officer, and I think if my Honourable friend goes to that part of the country, he will find that it is easy to check things at that end.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Under which Government is the Political officer?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Under the Government of India.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Surely the Honourable Member has control as to how it is working?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Through the relative Department.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Does the relative Department do its work?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** As I already replied, this question has been examined at a conference and we have drawn the special attention of the officer to its importance.

+1473\*—1476\*.

#### RICE ROTTING IN GOVERNMENT GODOWNS IN MANIKGANJ

**1479. \*Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Food please state if the attention of Government has been drawn to the news published on page 5 of the *Hindustan Times* dated 17th instant that 1,00,000 maunds of rice was rotting in Government godowns in Manikganj (Dacca-Bengal)?

(b) Have they verified if this is a fact?

(c) Do Government propose to make enquiries and find out the person or persons responsible for such a large wastage?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such happenings?

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

(b), (c) and (d). An enquiry has been made from the Bengal Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

**Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether he is going to visit the storage place and find out if the foodstuffs are properly secured?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member said he would collect information and lay it on the table.

**Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Sir, I should like to know whether the Honourable Member is going to visit the places of storage of foodstuffs . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. That does not arise at all.

#### FOODSTUFF DESTROYED IN BENGAL

**1480. \*Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total quantity and value of foodstuff that had to be destroyed in Bengal in 1944 for want of proper care in storage?

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

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is it a fact that very often these foodstuffs are stored in the open and exposed to rain and wind?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** No, Sir, that is not a fact.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** Is it a fact that large quantities of rice deteriorated at Munshigunj and a considerable quantity of *atta* also deteriorated at Dacca recently?

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

#### FOOD SCARCITY IN ORISSA

**1481 \*Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been drawn to a news item published on page 4 of the *Hindustan Times Evening News*, dated the 16th March, 1945, regarding a statement by Mr. Bisvanath Das, Ex-premier of Orissa, saying that the conditions in Orissa are deplorable and people are living on "banshini" a preparation made of bamboo trees?

(b) Do Government propose to verify the facts and see that sufficient quantity of rice and other essential foodstuffs are immediately supplied to Orissa?

\*These questions were withdrawn by the questioner.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE DOWN SILVER JUBILEE T.B. HOSPITAL AND MUNICIPAL T.B. CLINIC, DELHI**

**1482 \*Mr. Satyanarayana Moorty:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Delhi Municipal Committee have decided to close down Silver Jubilee Tuberculosis Hospital and the Municipal T. B. Clinic from July 1945;

(b) the reasons for not provincialising the above institutions; and

(c) if Government of India propose to give a grant-in-aid to keep them running for the present if they cannot provincialise them forthwith?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) Yes.

(b) Owing to deterioration in the financial position it has been necessary to avoid all expenditure unless it contributes to the war effort or is otherwise quite unavoidable.

(c) The Government of India have appointed a special officer to draw up a comprehensive scheme for the improvement of the health services generally in the Delhi area and the question of provincialising the Tuberculosis Hospital and Clinic or giving a grant to the Municipal Committee will be reconsidered on receipt of his report.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What other facilities will be available for the public of Delhi and Delhi Province in regard to this particular matter of tuberculosis?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** The Honourable Member is assuming that the hospital is going to be closed.

**PRODUCTION OF POTATOES IN FARRUKHABAD**

**1483 \*Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the production of potatoes in Farrukhabad this season;

(b) the number of tons for which export permits are given;

(c) the number of tons remaining in that local market;

(d) if he is aware that the number of tons left behind exceeds the requirements of the local civilian consumption;

(e) if he proposes to take steps to see that necessary permits are issued for their export;

(f) the number of tons purchased by the military for dehydration purposes; and

(g) whether Government propose to make transport arrangements to send the surplus stock to deficit areas?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) to (g). The production is estimated at 19 lakh maunds of which export is permitted upto 12½ lakh maunds. In addition there is a military demand of 1.85 lakh maunds. On completion of these quotas the residue left would be 5.15 lakh maunds which is not considered to be in excess of local requirements for consumption and seed within the Province. I regret that I have no precise figures of the amount actually exported to date but the ban is being temporarily lifted to facilitate the clearance of the exportable surplus. Necessary assistance for movement is being given by the Provincial Government.

**DEPUTATION OF INDIAN BUSINESSMEN TO BRITAIN**

**†1484. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state why the deputation of Indian businessmen is being sent to the United Kingdom?

(b) When was the proposal first mooted by the Government of India?

(c) What is the agenda of the deputation?

(d) Was this deputation invited by the United Kingdom interests?

(e) Why is it necessary for the Honourable Member to go on deputation?

†Answer to the question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

# ELECTION TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

(f) Is it proposed to make future plans for India in consultation with people in the United Kingdom?

(g) Is it one of the objects of the Mission to discuss the sterling balances?

**The Honourable Sir M. Asizul Huque:** (a) To enable the industrialists of this country to make contacts in U. K. and to study the developments and technical advances made by industries in that country during the past few years.

(b) Early in 1944.

(c) There is no agenda. The visit will be unofficial in character and the members of the party will be free to arrange their programme or discuss any matter, unfettered by any terms of reference.

(d) No.

(e) The visit of the industrialists has no connection with the visit if any, of any Member of the Executive Council.

(f) No.

(g) No.

## APPLICATION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES ORDINANCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**1455 \*Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Essential Services Ordinance applies to all Government employees; and

(b) whether protests have reached the Government regarding non-application of the provisions of sections (5) and (6) of the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance II of 1941, in regard to obligation of the Crown not to discontinue the services of the Crown servants without a reasonable cause, and the issue of rules regulating or empowering a specified authority to regulate their wages and other conditions of service?

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

(b) No.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask why Government have not taken steps that are necessary to be taken under the Essential Services Act?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** My Honourable friend's question was whether protests were received.

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD DEPARTMENT

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Thursday, the 22nd March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Food, eighteen nominations were received. Subsequently eight Members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Pandit Nilakantha Das, Shams-ul-Ulema Kamaluddin Ahmad, Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt, Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha and Mr. B. Das to be duly elected.

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have further to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 23rd March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for Agriculture and Forests twelve nominations were received. Subsequently two Members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Raja Bahadur Kushal Pal Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Khan Bahadur Sheikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, Sardar

[Mr. President.]

Mangal Singh, Shams-ul-Ulema Kamaluddin Ahmad, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan and Mr. C. P. Lawson to be duly elected.

### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have further to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 23rd March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for Education, twelve nominations were received. Subsequently two Members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Pandit Shambhudayal Misra, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Mr. W. Tyson, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam and Mrs. Renuka Ray to be duly elected.

### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 23rd March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands other than Agriculture and Forests and Education, eleven nominations were received. Subsequently one Member withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, Lala Sham Lal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, Sardar Sant Singh, Dr. Habibar Rahman, Sir Syed Raza Ali, Sir F. E. James and Mr. Piere Lal Kureel to be duly elected.

### DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1944-45—contd.

#### DEMAND NO. 71—MISCELLANEOUS—contd.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, in this demand they want money for meeting the contribution towards the proposed World Food and Agricultural organisation and also for the Famine Enquiry Commission. I learn that the report of the Famine Inquiry Commission is not yet available; I should like to know whether this Commission has submitted its report at all, and if so, when it is going to be published. Coming to the question of the world food organisation, we are told that it has been decided that India is to contribute up to 4.25 per cent. of the total expenditure of that organisation. We do not know at what stage the Government of India were taken into consultation in fixing this particular quota as India's share of this expenditure, and on what basis this share has been fixed at all. If we are to look at it from the point of view of the importance of relative benefit that the different countries are to derive from this organisation. I am afraid this quota is rather too high. America, England, Australia and Canada and other countries have a much greater productivity from land and has better processing and other equipment, much better marketing services and much greater assistance from their respective Governments so far as their agriculturists are concerned. In those countries effective steps are being taken to ensure minimum prices for their agricultural produce and also to protect their farmers from sudden slumps of prices in the post-war period. Our Honourable Member has not been able to give any such assurance at all; he is not trying to do any such thing. He is only flirting with the idea of a committee—mostly an official committee—to concert or rather think of measures that may have to be taken by the post-war administration in India, to fix minimum prices, and so on. The level of scientific agriculture in this country is very low. The amount of research that

is being carried on is not quite adequate and the processing services are hopelessly undeveloped; marketing, even according to the admissions of Government, is very insufficient, costly and wasteful. In these circumstances I do not think it is really right on the part of Government to have agreed to this 4.25 per cent. as their quota of contribution for the expenses of this world food organisation. In fact this organisation has not yet come into existence. And I cannot understand on what basis they could have made their estimates at all, and with what scientific precision they could have come to this particular

figure of their quota. I do not know whether the Standing Finance Committee has been consulted about this matter or whether the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has been consulted and whether they were given full facts at all. I do not also know whether the Government of India propose to consult the Standing Committee which is being constituted before they come to a final decision in this matter. We ourselves are not supplied with any more facts than this bare statement that it has been fixed. I think it is a very arbitrary decision on the part of Government.

Coming to the question of U. N. R. R. A., I find that the contribution that we are asked to make is rather too high—eight crores of rupees. India is a very poor country and in spite of it there are war budgets and inflation which we are having. Soon after the war is over, India is likely, even according to the admission made by our own Finance Member, to face a slump in her price level. Certainly India would find it very difficult indeed to bear this burden of eight crores of rupees. And why should we make this contribution? To help the rest of the world to rehabilitate itself. Are we so very well rehabilitated in our own country or are we likely to be so very well rehabilitated in our own country after the war that we can afford to be so very liberal-minded by placing such a large sum of money at the disposal of the rest of the world? What was happening in this country last year? The House knows what happened when the Bengal famine was rampant.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is going into old history. Bengal famine has been discussed fully in this House.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee** (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): It is in connection with rehabilitation that he is mentioning the famine.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Application was made to the U. N. R. R. A. and they sheltered behind constitutional difficulties, namely that the application should come through the British Government. Later on they made an amendment to the effect that if in future India were to be visited again by another famine, then the U. N. R. R. A. may come to think of the advisability of making a contribution to India. This is the way in which we are likely to be treated in future also. Just when we are in need of it, we will not be able to get any help from it.

What are the countries which are likely to get much more help and which are likely to make insistent demands and get their demands satisfied? They are European countries—they themselves have said so again and again. European countries are very much in their mind and to them they make their contributions. Even as they are today, after the destruction and exploitation which has been carried on by Nazis, I am sure, Sir, their people are much more prosperous than our people. Yet we are asked to make these contributions for the rehabilitation of those people. We want them to be rehabilitated provided it does not cost us too much, for eight crores is too much indeed. Therefore, I take very strong objection to this kind of procedure that Government of India adopts.

Sir, they are increasing our international responsibilities. We do not mind going into these international organisations if at all it is going to be beneficial to us. It has not been proved that this participation is really a beneficial thing for India. In the Philadelphia Conference India could not get a permanent seat on the Executive. My Honourable friend, Mr. Janinadas Mehta, himself was obliged to admit in his report to this House that any industrial country was able to get much more consideration than India. America and England as a matter of course got permanent places reserved for them, but India could



[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

not be given a permanent place. The same thing happened at the International Monetary Conference.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss all those conferences on this motion.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, I am not going into all that; I am making a passing reference.

And now there is the San Francisco Conference.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must confine himself to the motion under consideration.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** This is another international shackle that is put round our neck as a sort of an ornament. I only tell this Government that this ornament burns us, instead of adorning us. It does not help us; it costs us very much. Therefore, I warn this Government that unless it changes its ways and it avails of every possible opportunity to take this House into confidence before it makes any such commitments in regard to these international matters, and before it agrees to get India's share in the financial burden fixed, it is not likely to satisfy this House and it is not likely to satisfy this country.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque** (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): The House will remember that so far as U. N. R. R. A. is concerned, it is a fact that I promised at that stage to place the question of grant before the House. It is no secret when I say that at the last Session I consulted the Leaders of the different Parties and in accordance with their advice I made this provision in the budget. I will not say anything more than that actually the amount to be contributed by India was also decided as between the Leaders. I thought that the fact that I have placed it in the Budget is sufficient to give an opportunity to the House. I placed eight crores of rupees in the Budget which will partly be spent this year and partly during the next year.

**Mr. Abdul Qayyum** (North-West Frontier Province: General): Why did not you consult us about the San Francisco Conference?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** That is another matter!

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I think my Honourable friend is a lawyer and I would have given a lawyer's reply that it is quite irrelevant for the time being.

So far we have not discussed the supply of any other article except jute. Certainly enquiries have been made as regards other supplies. So far as jute is concerned, we have always tried to put ourselves in touch with the industries as to the quantity that may be available and, in fact, it is in our interest that our jute should go abroad in order that the growers might have a fair and proper price. Beyond that if there is any other question which affects the consumption in the country, we will try to keep it within the export quota as far as possible, but if beyond, we will certainly consult the interests concerned especially the Chambers in order to find out their views as to the supplies which might be given from this country. I hope, in the circumstances, the House will agree that we have taken all the necessary steps which should have been taken in this connection.

With regard to the Food Organisation matter, the House will remember that it agreed to it, and agreed to a contribution which will be only a very small part of the total contribution. This Organisation will really place the experience and talent of the world at the disposal of all those who will work in food matters, and from that point of view it is welcome.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh** (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): On a point of information. Would this amount of Rs. 8 crores cover a period of two to three years?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** As I explained, that is the entire amount for such time as may be required.

**Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty** (Madras: Indian Commerce): So far as the Leaders of Parties have agreed to the amount of contribution to the



U. N. R. R. A., I shall not make any reference, but my present task will be to tell the Honourable the Finance Member that his resentment and anger against my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, when he questioned the propriety for the payment of large sums of money to U. N. R. R. A. was rather a show of indecent haste. I quite appreciate that the Honourable the Finance Member has by this time lost his patience but he has vented his resentment and whole criticism against my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar. Still, I find, Sir, that my friend was thoroughly justified in alleging that the Finance Member was rather indecently hasty in making provision and in making payments to this fund.

It was originally stated that only a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs would be paid and I think the Finance Standing Committee gave sanction to that amount about February last. Now but, even within a month, we find, Sir, that the balance of Rs. 1,10,00,000, that is to say, Rs. 86 lakhs are proposed to be paid, if not already paid to the U. N. R. R. A. fund this year, and it has also made provision for Rs. 7 crores for the next year's budget, though at the inception of this proposal the Finance Member said that having regard to the peculiar backward economic condition of this country he would see that the payment of this large sum of money is spread over a number of years. Though the provision of Rs. 7 crores in the next year's budget might not mean that it is going to be paid to the U. N. R. R. A., it means, to the extent that this budget is concerned, that that sum is increased in the deficit between the revenue and the expenditure next year. I do not know why the Honourable the Finance Member should have provided for the balance of Rs. 7 crores in one year, though the actual payment might not have been made. If he spread this large amount over another 7 years and debiting one crore every year, our deficit would have been less to that extent.

Sir, there is one curious argument mentioned in the notes of this proposal. It was felt and perhaps agreed to by all parties concerned that India would not be able to pay at the rate of one per cent. of its national income and that the other parties were generous only to agree to a sum of Rs. 8 crores. Even that is to be justified on the ground that anything less than that amount would not be befitting the respect or dignity of a big country like this. This is sometimes the argument of a spendthrift that he must spend more than his means just to keep up his dignity. I thought that was one of the most dangerous of enemies of any canon of orthodox finance: to bolster up the position of any individual, body or institution for over-spending and thus becoming bankrupt sooner than necessary.

Moreover India has been the scene of war to some extent and is perhaps likely to be so in a greater degree next year. So a comparison between other countries which are not exactly scenes of war is also not a proper comparison. However, Sir, I thought it was my duty to mention that the Honourable the Finance Member was not completely right when he waxed very indignant over my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar's criticism, in charging the Honourable the Finance Member of being indecently hasty in providing for the payment of this fund.

**Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar** (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): I would like to have information about the Indian Scientists' Mission. There is a demand here of Rs. 61,000. I thought almost all the scientists who had been sent out were employed by universities or other institutions. As far as I know they were sent out on deputation by their respective employers. I would like to know whether they were paid additional salary by the Government of India.

Secondly, I would like to know whether these scientists will make any written report to Government and whether that report will be published and made available to the various universities and institutions engaged on scientific research.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon** (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Under the demand there is provision for Rs. 2,69,000 for the Famine Enquiry Commission, and we are told that it was set up in response to a demand from the

[Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon.]

Central Legislature. This demand was made on the floor of this House somewhere in the budget session of 1943. It is now two years and we do not know what has happened to this Committee. We read about it sometimes in the papers but we are not told when this enquiry committee is going to complete its enquiry. I do not even know whether the Government proposes to lay on the table at an early date the report which they have finished about Bengal. When this Commission was appointed by the House, the House is entitled to get this report or it should be told when the report will be completed.

**Mr. J. D. Tyson** (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): A question has been asked about the item under J.—Indian Scientists. The Indian Scientists were the guests of His Majesty's Government while in the United Kingdom and in respect of that part of their deputation the Government of India bore the cost of their passages and I think some small allowance in England. Of course they also went on to the United States of America and it was necessary to give them, in view of the cost of living there and the fact that they were not the guests of the United States Government, allowances for the period of their stay—six or seven weeks. I think these figures cover those.

**Sir Vithal N. Ohandavarkar**: And the salaries?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson**: Two of them are certainly Government officers. As regards their report, we have not yet received it, but we will consider placing it before the House.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: About this Famine Enquiry Commission: I have asked for information and Mr. Haroon has asked for information.

**Mr. J. D. Tyson**: That is not the affair of my Department.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Who deals with it? Government is responsible for it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made his speech. I cannot allow him to go on making another speech.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Some Department or other must be held responsible?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made his speech and he has heard the other side's reply.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**: A reply has been made but not about the Famine Enquiry Commission.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If they do not want to reply to that particular matter I cannot make them. The Honourable Member can vote as he likes.

The question is:

"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'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 72—GRANTS-IN-AID TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman** (Finance Member): I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,00,000 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 'Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,00,000 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 'Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments'."

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari** (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I want some information in regard to this particular demand. I find that this demand relates to what happened in the Standing Finance Committee on the 31st July 1944 but another item of an analogous character which was placed before the Standing Finance Committee at that meeting in regard to a subvention to the United Provinces Government does not find a place here; nor do I see that it finds a place in the demands for grants in 1945-46. I would like the Government to tell us whether this amount of subvention

to the United Provinces is going to be adjusted by reappropriation or some such action or that the payment of the whole amount is to be held in abeyance. And if it is going to be paid at all, when will this House have an opportunity of having a say on it. I see that it has not been budgeted for in 1945-46. It does not find a place in this particular demand to which it is related, because both the transactions were put before the Standing Finance Committee at the same meeting. I would like to have some information on these points.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I cannot say immediately whether the provision for the adjustment with the United Provinces Government, which my Honourable friend referred to, is being made but what I can say is this. With regard to the supplementary demand now before the House it is a matter of simple arithmetic. We are now giving the Bengal Government in this year 7 crores. We have already got provision for 1½ crores and the supplementary demand we are asking for here is the remaining 5½ crores; nothing else is included under this supplementary demand.

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** What is going to happen to the other matter, which was also discussed at the same meeting of the Standing Finance Committee?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** We have not yet made a demand for that amount. It may not have been finally decided as to what the amount will be. It may not have been yet brought to account.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,00,000 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 'Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 78—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,76,000 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 Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,76,000 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 Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 78-A—POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,77,000 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 'Post-War Planning and Development'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,77,000 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 'Post-War Planning and Development'."

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait** (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I want to call the attention of the House to the remarks made as early as 31st October, 1944, by the Finance Committee, when first this demand was placed before them. This is the observation on page 4:

"The Committee approved the proposal but felt that an early opportunity should be taken of explaining the scope and functions of the Department to the Legislature."

My complaint is that the Department has not yet taken any opportunity to explain the functions and scope of its work. We had a Resolution on which of course the Department did not take the opportunity of explaining it. Then there was a cut motion when the Honourable Member did speak but yet I think that he is one of the least communicative of the Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I thought this matter had been discussed several times before in the House.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt:** Yet we are as thirsty as we have ever been before.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman:** Your thirst is unquenchable!

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt:** The other day in reply to my friend Mr. Neogy he said that the panels are being constituted and once they are finally constituted he will place a list of the members on the table of the House. I do not think he has carried that out so far. There was information yesterday in the press that 25 out of the 29 panels have already been constituted. I hope that he will take this opportunity of telling us how far he has made progress and when he expects to finish the constitution of these panels, so that we may have an opportunity of knowing before the end of the Session is to where we are.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official): I have two grievances against the Government of India in the matter of Planning. The first is that the Government of India does not give sufficient representation to Labour on the various Planning Committees which they have formed. Sir, it seems to me that the Government of India, as it is constituted today, is a capitalist government, and on account of that special reason they do not wish to consult labour interests in regard to planning. They feel that if labour is consulted, their plans may have to be changed, and for that reason Labour is not sufficiently represented on the Planning Committees. That is one reason why I am not in favour of giving any grant to the Planning Department. My second reason is that the Planning Department does not pay sufficient respect to the Indian Legislature. Planning has been going on for two years, and it is the duty of the Planning Department to place a resolution before the Legislature for its consideration. Even our friend the Honourable Food Member...

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot raise a general debate now.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** I must say why I am opposing the grant.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it entirely a new service?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** It is a new service. The Honourable Planning Member should have brought forward a Resolution for consideration by the House, so that the House could give him some guidance, but it seems that Government have no respect for the Legislature, they do not care for the guidance which the Legislature may give them. That is my second point. My third complaint is that they do not even give sufficient information to the Legislature. For instance, they promised that they would appoint some panels. From newspapers, and not from State documents because we are not given these documents, I find that these panels will consider whether a particular industry will be managed by the State or by private capitalists. Now in this question we are all very much interested, Labour should be consulted and Labour should be represented on the Panels, but they do not do that, they do not even give information to the Legislature. We find some stray information of this kind in the newspapers. Government is treating the Legislature badly. I feel, Sir, that this is a very unsatisfactory way, and I am afraid, Sir, that the Legislature will not be consulting its own dignity if it will vote this grant.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar** (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot Non-Muhammadan Rural): It is an entirely new Department.

**Sir E. E. James** (Madras: European): Laurel and Hardy.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** I do not want to touch the ground which has already been touched. On two occasions this Planning Department has come for discussion in this House, once on a non-official Resolution, and another time on a cut motion.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There was no provision in the last budget?

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** It is a new Department, and in a case like this Government should have given facilities in a different way. On their own initiative they should have brought forward a Resolution. I am sorry Government have not chosen to take notice of this House in regard to this matter of planning which is a very important matter for the future welfare of the country.

Now, Sir, I would like to say few words about the Department itself. The Honourable Member for Planning has given various statements, has made various speeches in different parts of the country. It is only from these speeches or statements that we know anything about his attitude and this Department itself. Even before the Department started we had a bad augury in regard to it. The Finance Member in his budget speech said it is post-war planning: in no sense of the term can this be understood to mean planning during the war.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** That is quite incorrect: it is planning during the war, and execution after the war.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Exactly, the Finance Member and the country for which he stands will accept post-war planning for eternity, but will never come to a conclusion. I know, Sir, what has happened in other countries. Execution of very big schemes of industrial expansion have been carried out in other countries during the war. What has been done in Canada? What has been done in Australia? Aeroplane factories have been installed in Canada and Australia during the war. In fact war is an opportunity to many of these countries for developing big industries, and then these industries are necessary for the defence of the country. I heard, Sir, the other day a speech by Vice-Admiral Godfrey, and he said: The base for defence should be as near as possible, but the base of our arsenals and industries for the production of war materials are 6,000 miles away. We do not even have shipping; we have to depend on U.S.A. for it; we have to depend on England for it. Everybody else in the world have taken these defence measures which are most important for the security of the country. In many other countries they have developed these things during the war, war has been the occasion for them to develop these industries, but what is the position here? Planning should wait till after the war. They are not even prepared to begin after five years of war.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I am glad to find that the Honourable Member will support a big Navy for India to-day.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Let the budget come before us, let it be our budget; it will be possible. We know that the Finance-Member is printing paper money and using it for war. Cannot I get money for using it for the benefit of the country? If I can get an opportunity I will do it.

Now I want to launch a protest, a strong protest, on the way things are done. Things must be done here and now. Afterwards outside interests which are strong—in war time they are quiet,—will come in our way. Even during the war when shipping was attempted to be developed in this country I understand the Board of Trade in England objected to it, because they plan for one hundred years ahead. They say after the war what will happen to their shipping if India develops her own shipping. Even with the risk of prolongation of war, even with the loss of human life that it will mean, they want to preserve the shipping for themselves for many years to come. That is their attitude. If that is going to be their attitude, what is the meaning of having this post-war planning. There is a saying in Tamil: the object of planning is to come to a conclusion. The Government of India seem to be thinking all the time, but will never come to a conclusion. It is a wrong thing. Now I would like to warn the Honourable Member in charge of Planning. I would like him to avoid the evils of capitalism which are prevalent in other countries. They have established big industries, it is true, but they have class hatred, struggle between capital and labour, ruthless exploitation of the masses and killing of individuality in workers and also lowering of the moral standard. I want, Sir, that if industries are to be established in this country, they must encourage the village artisan to produce better and more, and encourage village industries and cottage industries.

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

Now, Sir, I would suggest one thing. I come from an industrial area, there is no end of trouble between capital and labour. And I would suggest this for the Planning Department to undertake. If he can evolve a system by which labour can be brought into partnership with capital, I think he will go a long way in avoiding industrial quarrels in this country. As far as I know this system works in the Tatas, from where the Honourable Member comes and it has to a certain extent succeeded there. If he can arrange the profits to be shared by labour also, that will be a long range planning to avoid the eternal quarrels between labour and capital in this country.

Above all, I would like the establishment of these big industries to supply raw materials to many of the cottage industries in this country. Today the big industries are in competition with the cottage industries. They want to kill them; they have succeeded in killing some of them; but that is not the way in which the problems of this country are going to be solved. We are 400 crores of people; next to agriculture, the biggest industries are handloom and some of the cottage industries. But by developing a few big industries here and there we are not going to work for the salvation of this country. Our big industries should produce the raw product for the cottage industries in the various parts of the country, so that the cottage industries will live and flourish, and millions of labourers will earn a respectable livelihood in their own houses.

Now, I would like to refer to a statement made by the Honourable Planning Member that the real bottle-neck is going to be want of personnel. I have studied with interest what efforts he has made in this direction. He is planning to send—it is all planning—500 people to the United States and the United Kingdom to study certain subjects; most of the subjects which I find there were not subjects in which after a study they will return and work in the factories themselves. It is mostly scholastic, and I am very doubtful whether the men for whom he is spending this money will be able to come and work and help to set up big factories or industries, which it is his intention to build up. I would like him to send men who are working in factories already and who know something of its working, so that when they return they will be put in charge of the big factories.

I have nothing more to add, but only to say this, that I hope that the process of planning will some day come to actuality and that it will be of lasting benefit to our people and that it will be run and planned and executed from the point of view of the large masses of this country.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, we are asked to grant this money for post-war planning. One of the items should be to plan in such a manner that there will be no place at all for this European Group in a legislature like this. We meet here in this House to do some serious work according to the best of our abilities and our lights, to serve our people, to serve our country. We do not meet here to turn the whole House into a cinema. This is not a place where employment has to be provided for prospective cinema directors, people who cannot find any place at all—any honourable and fit employment in their own countries but who somehow or other manage to run into this country and get themselves employed as paid and professional legislators. There was an honourable gentleman who was brought into this country, or rather who brought himself into this country, and who allowed himself to be employed by the Madras Planters and then he went into the Madras legislature on behalf of those people, all the time having his cushy job of payment from the planters. . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know how all this is relevant.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** There is an honourable gentleman who made a personal attack on both of us, Sir, two Members of this House. He made such an indecent attack that he ought to be ashamed of himself and of being a Member of this House.



**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know when such an attack was made: when did it happen?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Just now, when Mr. Chettiar was called by you to speak.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What did he say? The Honourable Member should have risen in his seat there and then, if any unparliamentary expressions were used.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: My Honourable friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar was called by you and so I did not wish to interrupt him.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If any unparliamentary remarks were made by any one, surely it was up to any Member of the House to rise and point it out at the time.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: It is not too late, Sir. I am on my feet and I have every right to tell the Honourable gentleman what I consider to be his duty. Sir, this gentleman was afterwards transported from Madras to Bengal and there also he was employed by the planters or some other body and paid a handsome salary, and from there he was transported to this Legislature. This kind of paid and professional legislators we are ashamed of. We do not want any more of these people; and when they come here, let them first behave.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is not justified in making personal remarks like this.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: He has made a personal attack against us and I am only answering.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should have drawn my attention to it then.

**Sir F. E. James**: If my Honourable friend will allow me, I made no personal attack on either my friend who is just now speaking or my friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar. I merely interjected what I hope was in good humour.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Oh! it was humour. To insult other people and then try and call it humour.

**Sir F. E. James**: I merely interjected what I intended to be a perfectly innocuous and good-humoured remark; but if that remark is in any way offensive to either of my honourable friends, I would beg permission to withdraw it and ask that it may be expunged from the proceedings.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What was the remark?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: I am glad the Honourable Member has withdrawn his remark and I hope hereafter he will confine his remarks to his drawing room and not transport them into the debates of this House. Coming to this question.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not take notice of every interruption that is made in this House.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: We have to take special notice of these gentlemen because they have, really speaking, no place at all here, and on top of that they come and insult us.

Coming to the question under discussion, I wish to say this: that while they accept my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi's contention that there was not proper representation given to labour on these various panel committees that are being constituted, my grievance is even greater than that. There are our peasants and there is no special effort made by my Honourable friend in charge of planning to give organisational representation to the various peasants organisations that are to be found in this country. Even if he were willing to consult only those organisations which are prepared to go with this Government, there are plenty of them in the Punjab, associated with their own Punjab ministry, and other organisations in Bengal and so on in various provinces. No proper steps have been taken at all. Agriculturists have a great stake in post-war planning. Many people pay lip homage by saying that these

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

post-war plans are intended to benefit them. The Bombay planners have said it—one of the authors is this gentleman, and the Government of India also says so. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. In the preparation of their plans there does not seem to be any proper or adequate place given to the real representatives of the peasants from any part of the country or from all parts of the country.

There are also these cottage industrial workers. There are millions of them. In organised industries you have not more than 5 millions. But in one industry, the handloom industry alone, there are 10 million working, according to your own statistics. There are various other cottage industries. They are nowhere in your picture. In answer to my supplementary questions and in personal conversation the Honourable Member said that the Provincial Governments are seized of this subject, and when their reports come over here, it will be the task of these various panel committees to go into those matters, and that there will be no need for a special committee for cottage industries. I am not satisfied with that position. Then, for whose benefit are you planning now? For every body's benefit, you will say. But in actual fact, we are afraid, that unless proper care is taken to plan in such a manner especially as to benefit the great masses of the people of this country, that is, the peasants, there is every likelihood that we may be loaded with a plan which is likely to benefit only a very small section of our people, that is, the industrialists and the industrial workers who may be associated with them; and the rest, the masses of the country, may be exploited for their benefit. One of the authors of the Bombay Plan stated that it is but right that the agricultural peoples must be satisfied with a much lower standard of living than the industrial workers. The reason he gave was that while industrial workers are working with the aid of machinery, agricultural workers have to work with their hands and nothing more. This is from your own colleague, Mr. John Mathai. Therefore he said that industrial workers ought to earn more and enjoy more. This would not do. We want unit for unit of labour equal remuneration whether a man works in a factory or on the field.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It does not arise out of this.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I want the Honourable Member to bear these considerations in mind. We do not want the village to be neglected. There is a sort of fascination for the towns. These ten gentlemen hail from the towns. They created the town of Jamshedpur and naturally they are fascinated by towns. This country wants village life to be modernised in such a manner that the villages will be able to enjoy all the modern benefits of science, art and organisation, while all the key and basic industries are managed by co-operative ventures or by the Government itself. When you plan, you must plan for the poor man, the common man and you must take care to see that the first fruits of planning do not go into the hands of a few people. You should not trust your luck or fortunes to either the undependable taxation machine or the inflationary measure or any other method for the proper distribution of wealth. See that the first fruits of your planning are not snatched away by two or three or even two or three hundred entrepreneurs or big capitalists. There is a sort of fascination for the big industrial concerns, as if all the wisdom is concentrated in their brains alone, as if these gentlemen alone are capable of enterprise, planning, organisation, production and distribution of wealth. It is all wrong. Soviet Russia has shown that it is all wrong. Until my friend was transported to this House, he was not so much of a capitalist as a manager. It was possible for the Tatas concern to have engaged him. It would have been possible for this Government to have engaged him. In future, it is not necessary to have a number of sleeping partners in these various industries drawing fat commissions and fat dividends and they have been doing nothing but encouraging absentee landlordism and capitalism. I want all these gentlemen to help us to organise co-operative ventures and help



the poor people of this country. I do not see any reason why all this unearned income should be put into the pockets of a few gentlemen, whether they come from Bombay or Ahmedabad or Sholapur or Cawnpore or even Madras and Coimbatore. In all these places these big capitalists are rising like mushrooms because of this war.

My Honourable friend was interrupted by the Finance Member who asked 'how can you build up new industries during the war'. Well, new industries have been built up. If you had not set up the Eastern Group Council or if British imperialism had not stood in the way and if we had our own choice and had a free hand, we would have made the same progress that Australia and Canada have made. The industrial potential of Australia and Canada was nothing compared with our industrial potential at the beginning of this war but they have the political potential and that is why they were able to develop their industries. We have also developed to some extent though it is on wrong lines. My Honourable friend said only yesterday 'take patents for the several inventions and place them at the disposal of the public, -so that the public may be able to use them'. It is not a bad thing. I am opposed to patents. I want these things to become the property of the public. I say that these patents should not become the property of a few big capitalists, they must be available for use by co-operative ventures and by Government for the benefit of the people. We must utilise these things ourselves and exploit them to the greatest possible benefit. I agree with my Honourable friend Sir Jeremy Raisman on one thing, although on many points I disagree with him very violently. That is, in future the State has got to look to State enterprises in a very large measure for the increase in State revenues. Several Members on the floor of the House who are interested in capitalistic development have taken him to task. I am not prepared to take him to task. On the other hand, I will look forward to future enterprises to work on these lines. But we do not want state enterprises to be developed in such a manner that they will misbehave like the Railways. We will develop our state ventures in such a manner that it would be possible for every state enterprise to have democratic control and criticism on them. We must also develop our co-operative ventures. I may disagree with my Honourable friend on very many things as to what happens in Soviet Russia but there are very many good lessons that we have got to learn from Soviet Russia. There was a time when it was a fashion to think that everything that came from Soviet Russia was bad. Now the wave is in the other direction. Let my Honourable friends on all sides of the House read the experience of Soviet Russia. Let us try to develop our future in such a manner that the benefits of the planning do not fructify into the pockets of a few gentlemen but will fructify into the pockets of the general public of this country. This means that you have got to develop a new distribution system, a new system of distributing your wealth. I would make one suggestion. It has already been adopted in England and to some extent in America, because of their war economy. It is this according to the grades of incomes you grade the price also that you are going to charge for various commodities absolutely necessary for every individual to have. Then grade your price lists in regard to the consumer goods, toilets and all the rest of it. I am not going to allow my friend the Finance Member to run away with it. Sir, my friend is a very clever man. If he gets even a little bit of a hint, he will take it up and impose taxation. I am really afraid of him, because he is so ingenious. But I am really making this suggestion in regard to future planning by a future Government. That is why I am mentioning the subject today. Then you lower the price of such commodities that are absolutely necessary for the consumption of the poor people. In that way, you subsidise consumption of goods to the poor people. You over-price the goods which are needed for the richer people after allowing a particular minimum quantity of consumption. In that way it must be possible in your future planning to transfer wealth from the richer people, from the more highly paid people, to the low paid people and also to the poor people

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and in this way from the towns to the villages, from the high salaried to low paid and from the employed people to the unemployed people, in this way you have to transfer wealth. Then alone there will be some equality of distribution in wealth. That does not mean that I want to equalise all wages and all salaries for all people.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is explaining his own plan.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I want the Honourable Member for Planning and Development to keep these considerations in mind and see that his planning will satisfy all classes of people in towns and villages, industrial workers as well as peasants.

**The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal** (Member for Planning and Development): I and my Department have absolutely nothing to conceal, we have everything to gain and nothing to lose by publicity. Therefore it is particularly an irony of fate that I, of all the Members of the Government, should be singled out as the least communicative of all the Members. As a matter of fact, my Honourable friends will find, when they know me a little better, that I am very communicative and very fond of publicity—of the right kind. The reason why there has not been more expositions of the scope and nature of my Department before the Legislative Assembly is that there has been no opportunity and for that, I am not to blame. The first opportunity that arose when I was prepared to explain the scope and nature of the work that I was doing was in the November Session over the Resolution of my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. My Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait said that I did not speak then. I do not want to harp on the same thing, but I was not allowed to speak. On the second occasion that arose which was on the cut motion, on all the points that were raised, I tried to explain, the position of my Department as far as it was possible to do so within the limited time and opportunity at my disposal. Now that a Standing Committee to advise my Department has been set up, its meeting is going to be held shortly and the very first item on the agenda is the explanation of the nature and scope of the Department; so that the House will see that it is not for want of inclination on my part that they are not as fully apprised of the activities of my Department as they would like to be, but simply because there has been no opportunity to do so. For that I am not to blame. I am quite prepared if the House so desires and if the Honourable the Leader of the House could spare the time to sit for one, two, three days or even a week, it necessary, to explain the nature and scope of the activities of my Department. As I say, I have everything to gain and nothing to lose by publicity.

Then, Sir, as instances of my misdeeds, various things have been pointed out. Take the case of the panels about which my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy asked a question. Out of 29 panels, the personnel of only 16 panels were ready and even with regard to those panels a number of people who had been invited had not replied. After considering the whole thing, I thought instead of putting up half a list, it would be better if I waited for a few days longer and put up a complete list of all the panels. A simple thing like this has been the cause of suspicion. Therefore, when my Honourable friend Mr. Piracha again raised the question and wanted a statement to be placed on the table of the House, I did so without any further hesitation because now 25 panels have been formed, instead of the 16 which were only ready when Mr. Neogy put the question. Even now all the panels have not been completed and with regard to many panels which have recently been formed, we have not yet received all the replies from the gentlemen whom we propose to appoint. That has been made clear in the statement which has been laid on the table of the House. Now, Sir, it is stated that the information with regard to these panels was only available to the Members from the newspapers. That is because most of the Honourable Members appear to pay more attention to newspapers than to the proceedings before the House. The statement

was laid on the table of the House and that has been copied by the newspapers not to any detailed extent. The general directive was also laid on the table of the House long ago—nothing has appeared in the newspapers of which the House has not been apprised even before the items appeared in the newspapers.

**Mr. Mazu Subedar** (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, Indian Commerce): But the printed proceedings have not yet come. They take one or two months.

**The Honourable Sir Ardesahir Dalal**: The statement was laid on the table of the House. That was all I could do under the rules.

**Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**: Why don't you circulate it to all the Members?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is enough if a copy is laid on the table of the House.

**The Honourable Sir Ardesahir Dalal**: My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi says that labour is not properly represented. Now, Sir, in every committee that we appoint, in all the post war policy committees that have been appointed, I have consulted my Honourable friend the Member for Labour and the committees have been appointed in consultation with him.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi**: But he does not represent Labour.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir**: Does not the Honourable Member represent labour?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi**: He represents the Labour Department and not labour.

**The Honourable Sir Ardesahir Dalal**: Another instance of misunderstanding which I would like to point out is with regard to the men who are supposed to be sent out to foreign countries for training. Five hundred is the number constantly mentioned. Five hundred are the number of students whom we wish to send out for training in U. K. and U. S. A. in various branches of science and arts with a view to employ them on their return. Some of them might already be employed with various Government departments, others are likely to get employment. Although we cannot guarantee employment in the case of every one of them, we are not restricting ourselves to these 500 students. Over and above that we are quite prepared to send as many as a thousand students if their parents or their employers or anybody else is prepared to bear the cost of their training arrangements.

Then, it is said these are merely academic students and what we should try and do is to send people from factories. I think this has already been explained to the House on a previous occasion. Certainly it has been explained in answer to a question which was put to me that over and above these students whom we are sending for academic as well as practical training, there is a scheme sponsored by the Labour Department under which we propose to send quite a large number of men who are already employed in factories in the capacity of foremen and positions of that kind with a view to their obtaining further experience and training in factories in U. K. and U. S. A. so that they will be fitted on their return to take up positions of greater responsibility in the industries with which they are concerned. So, it seems to me, Sir, that there is still a great deal of misunderstanding over the whole position and I very much hope that when the Standing Committee functions, all these misunderstandings may be removed. If over and above that, the House desires any further information with regard to the activities of my Department as I have stated repeatedly, I am quite prepared to give that information and if the House desires to have one or two or three days set apart for the purpose of discussing the affairs of my Department, I am quite prepared, so far as I am concerned. I do not know what the Leader of the House agrees, but so far as I am concerned, I am perfectly prepared and willing to do so.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,77,000 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 'Post-War Planning and Development'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 74—CIVIL DEFENCE

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 33,43,000 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 Defence'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 33,43,000 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 Defence'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 75—DELHI

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,63,000 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 'Delhi'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,63,000 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 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 76—AJMER-MERWARA

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,30,000 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 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,30,000 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 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 77—PANTH PIPLODA

**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 'Panth Piploda'."

**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 'Panth Piploda'."

**Mr. Sri Prakasa** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this Panth Piploda has been eluding me for a very long time like a veritable Scarlet Pimpernel and I am glad I have at last caught it. I should really seriously like to know what and where it is. From the name, ending as it does in an 'a', I was wondering whether it is a Sanskrit noun or a Latin adjective. Is it some territory? If so, where is it? I have tried to find and locate this place in every map that I could get hold of, and I have not found it at all. The total demand in the next year's budget under this head is Rs. 16,000 and the supplementary demand is for the very petty sum of Rs. 1,000. The territory must be exceedingly small, because not even a Tahsil in the U. P. can be administered with only Rs. 16,000 a year. I should be glad to know the history of Panth Piploda, its geography and above all, I should like to know how the name is pronounced.

**Sir George Spence** (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, Panth Piploda is a British Indian Chief Commissioner's province, as the Honourable Member will find if he will refer to section 94 of the Constitution Act. It is an area, or separate areas, all completely surrounded by Indian States in Central India.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** How many square miles?

**Sir George Spence:** I am afraid I cannot say.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): 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 'Panth Piploda'."

The motion was adopted.

## DEMAND NO. 80—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,48,65,000 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 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,48,65,000 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 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

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

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

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Item 3 in the explanatory memorandum speaks of permanent peon quarters; other items speak only of construction of quarters for clerks. In New Delhi Capital Outlay new mushroom growth of buildings have come out and there have been statements made in this House that many of them will be demolished at the end of the war. I would like to know whether in the schemes of construction in which the word 'permanent' has not been used are those temporary houses which will be demolished? If not, why that word is used with reference to some quarters alone and with reference to some others it is not used.

Secondly, I would like to know whether in the case of those temporary quarters, the cost has been debited to capital. It would be wrong if it is debited to capital in the case of those temporary quarters because they simply won't exist after the end of the war according to the undertaking given by the Government of India. His Excellency the Governor General himself stated that many of these quarters will be demolished at the end of the war and in the case of those quarters it will be manifestly unjust to put the expenditure incurred on their account under capital. It must be put to revenue. Sir, I would like to know what are these quarters which are really permanent and what are the quarters which are temporary and if any portion of the money spent on the temporary quarters is debited to capital?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** (Labour Member): I am sorry I was not here to listen to the points raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar. But I should like to tell him that these quarters are permanent.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** All of them?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Yes, and the necessity that forced us to undertake this construction.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** I know that. I know my Honourable friend can give a lecture on that.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I think it is a great advantage that in the midst of so much money which is being spent on building temporary structures, we have succeeded in securing at least these quarters as permanent houses which will enable us to house a large number of clerks' population which will be working in the Secretariat.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** The other point that I raised was this. Some buildings which have been put up in New Delhi will be demolished at the end of the war. I would like to know whether they have been put under capital or under revenue?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Actually the point does not arise on this Supplementary Demand because, as my Honourable colleague has just pointed out, all the quarters which are provided for in this will be permanent quarters and, therefore, are obviously debitable to capital. But it is the case that some of the temporary structures have also been debited to capital. The reason is that the criterion for debiting expenditure to capital or revenue follows another and a simpler division. It has been recently reviewed in consultation with the Auditor General and the position is that, broadly speaking, all expenditure on construction in New Delhi is debited to capital except certain

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items below a certain size. The principle of conservative finance is to endeavour, of course, to debit as much to revenue as can be borne and that means that many small works of a capital of permanent nature are nevertheless debited to revenue, so that that balances the effect of debiting to capital the cost of certain assets which will be as long lived as other capital assets.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,48,55,000 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 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 82—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,73,00,000 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 'Interest-free Advances'."

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,73,00,000 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 'Interest-free Advances'."

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** On this item I would like to have the views of the Finance Member over the way in which interest-free advances of large sums of money are being given for commercial undertakings. The Public Accounts Committee has had occasions to go into this matter and on more than one occasion they have pointed out that every year large amounts are being asked in this item by way of supplementary grants. Rs. 14,73,00,000 has been advanced for purchasing Sudanese cotton for the textile industry. The industry can pay the interest on the money invested. I would like to know whether it is the policy of the Government to give interest-free money even for commercial undertakings. In the Public Accounts Committee's Report for last year, I have seen that for the Supply Department large amounts of money have been advanced—about one crore ninety-eight lakhs, of course this is subject to correction—and a large part of the work of the Supply Department was also of commercial nature. There are also other items of large expenditure involved in capital expenditure which are mainly of a commercial nature. I would suggest that if a thing is of a commercial nature, it should be loaned—it should not be given interest free. An industry like the Textile industry can very well pay interest on any amount advanced to it. They are paying huge amounts by way of Excess Profits Tax and they are taking large dividends, and they would not be averse to pay any money by way of interest for this amount.

In addition to this, I would like to bring one more point to your notice which I raised when supplementary demand for Commerce was being moved, but it was not attended to because it was drowned in a few other observations. Part of the money under the Commerce Department has been spent in purchasing Egyptian and Sudanese cotton. That money also ought to have been debited to the commercial undertaking and money must have been recovered from the commercial undertaking concerned. This practice of advancing large amounts—Rs. 14,73,00,000 in this case—to admittedly commercial undertakings and to industries which earn money for themselves is wrong in principle. I have not been able to get at any figures as to how much money till now has been advanced as interest-free to commercial undertakings like this. I should be glad to know if he has any publication which would give us an idea of these things. I would like him to consider this matter and see that for commercial undertakings interest on advances is not made. If any expenditure is incurred in the course of helping the commercial undertaking in any department of the Government of India, that money should be charged to the debit of this industry and I think that is the proper thing to do.

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** I would like to have some information from the Honourable Member in regard to this matter. I would like to ask him if the

creation of a cotton co-ordinating committee in Alexandria has not arisen because of the war because of the relative absence of free movement of goods from one country to another. Secondly I would like to ask him if the constitution of this committee has been due because the Government of India wanted to increase production of textile goods in this country and therefore it wanted to give all the facilities necessary for this industry to import higher grade cotton. Thirdly, I would like to ask him if the Government does not get an overall benefit by the industry flourishing in this country and therefore the expenditure in the matter of constituting the committee or selecting the officers to serve thereon or in the matter of furnishing the necessary funds for the purchase of cotton by the committee is not got back by way of additional tax revenue obtained.

Since the point has been raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chettiar, I would like the Finance Member to make it clear that he and his department have a direct responsibility to help the industry. It is a responsibility laid on the Government by reason of the fact that conditions are difficult and they want industry to maintain maximum production.

There is likely to be a general misapprehension in the minds of Members of this Assembly and outside that because the Government is taking a certain action, it is to help a particular industry and not in the national economy. The question of cotton has made it clear that Government can take action in the general interest of national economy. It is not a matter of obtaining one or two per cent. by way of interest. The Government's policy should be made clear so that this misapprehension on the minds of Mr. Chettiar and others may not exist.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I am very grateful to my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, who has very kindly furnished a good deal of the background of this matter and it seems to me has given the reply to at any rate the underlying difficulties of my honourable friend, Mr. Chettiar.

The reasons why Government enters this field and why they feel it justifiable to assist by means of public finance had been quite rightly indicated broadly by Mr. Krishnamachari and I do not think I need go over that.

The technical position is that wherever Government has to provide working capital for any purpose, it does so by means of advances and usually by means of interest-free advances because that is the capital which is continually being turned over. In the present case the Government provides the immediate finance for the purchase of the cotton in question, but simultaneously it obtains a deposit from the importer to cover the payment. As I understand it, the time lag between the two is either nil or negligible. In the circumstances, there is no justification for making provision for the charging of interest. I quite agree with my Honourable friend that if large sums are placed at the disposal of private industry for a time, even though they may be recovered—if the money remains in the hands of private industry for a considerable time—it is in accordance with the ordinary business practice, and Government practice, to make some charge for the use of the money. But in this particular case, I understand that the period is so short that that consideration does not arise.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,73,00,000 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 'Interest-free Advances'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 88—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,74,00,000 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 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,74,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the



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year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of Loans and Advances bearing interest."

**Mr. T. S. Avnashilingam Chettiar:** Bengal has been given a grant gratis of Rs. 10 crores and now this is a loan. I would merely point out that the Bengal finances have been very badly managed indeed and the things brought out by this Public Accounts Committee Report are sufficient evidence that the responsibility of the Government of India exists to see that the money given by them is administered properly without corruption and without loss to the people of this country. I hope, Sir, even if the present Finance Member goes away the coming Finance Member will take it as his responsibility and see that the money voted by this Government is spent properly.

This is the last demand for grants that the present Finance Member is moving and I should add my word of appreciation of the Finance Member and more than that to one gentleman whom I have never seen and to whom I would like to pay a tribute. I have never seen the Auditor General, Sir Cameron Badenoch. I have read much about him in all these reports and I should like to pay a tribute to the way in which he has done his duty.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** I am grateful to my Honourable friend for his kind words and still more for the tribute that he has paid to the retiring Auditor General, Sir Cameron Badenoch. I did make some observation on that same subject at the time of the debate on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

The Honourable Member quite rightly indicated that it is through advances such as these that we get involved in the strictures which are passed upon a possible maladministration or failure to account for the sums in question because it is the duty of the Auditor General on behalf of this House to see that these monies are properly accounted for—monies such as these—and we the Central Government are in the difficulty that we have to come to the assistance of another Government. The circumstances are well known and are very exceptional and I think it is generally recognised that in circumstances of such extreme difficulty and hardship a Provincial Government must look to the Central Government for assistance, and no Central Government in this country could fail to respond to the appeals of a Government situated such as the Government of Bengal. At the same time, it must be remembered that that applicant is a Government and that when you pass money to another Government for public purposes that Government has to exercise the powers and rights of a Government in regard to the administration of those sums. It is neither constitutionally proper nor is it practically feasible to follow out all the details whereby these sums are spent. The Central Government would require to have five times the personnel which it now has, if, in addition to carrying out the execution of its own administration, it also had to place one Central man side by side with every Provincial officer to follow out all the transactions which those Provincial officers have to execute.

I am very glad indeed that my Honourable friend referred back to the Public Accounts Committee's report, because it is precisely in matters such as these that the Central Government inevitably becomes involved and this House also, by voting these sums, must recognise that it is placing large sums of money at the disposal of another Government, over which it cannot have day to day control.

As to the strictures passed by the Auditor General I have no doubt that the Auditor General would not have delivered himself of judgments of that kind unless he was satisfied that there was justification for them and it has been no part of my endeavour or that of the Central Government to attempt to minimise in any way the seriousness of the situation brought to notice by the Auditor General. At the same time, I should say this House must realise that in the present constitutional position of India, you have a Central Government and you have Provincial Governments. They are entitled to look to us for assistance and, at the same time, if assistance is given, it is neither proper nor practicable to follow out the administration of the sums



provided in such degree of detail as to ensure beyond the peradventure that no mishaps occur.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** You must certainly make sure that it is properly spent and that a repetition of what has occurred in the past might not occur again.

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** We certainly endeavour as far as is possible to see that moneys are spent on the purpose for which they are provided but, as I pointed out, there are very severe practical limitations on the extent to which that can be done.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Surely in the Provinces also there are officers akin to the Auditor General?

**The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:** There is an Accountant General in Bengal to report to the Auditor General.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,74,00,000 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 'Loans and Advances bearing interest.'"

The motion was adopted.

## THE MINES MATERNITY BENEFIT (AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** (Labour Member): Mr. Deputy President, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Sir Syed Raza Ali, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. H. G. Stokes, Mr. S. C. Joshi and the Mover with instructions to report on Monday, the 2nd April, 1945, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande** (Rohilkhand and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Why is not there a lady Member?

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar** (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I suggest Mrs. Subbarayan.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** My Honourable friend might move an amendment at a later stage and I will then deal with it.

As the House is aware, we have already got the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, which was passed in the year 1941. This Bill seeks to amend that Act and the reasons why this amendment has become necessary can be very briefly stated.

When the Act of 1941 was passed it was intended to cover cases of maternity benefit for women working on surface. We had no such case as we have now of women working underground. Unfortunately, for the reasons which I have explained to the House on more than one occasion, we had to permit women to work underground in coal mines. As I have stated that provision is of a temporary character and I hope and trust that Government will be able to reimpose the ban very soon. But notwithstanding the fact that the lifting of the ban is of a temporary character, it is felt that in view of the criticisms made in this House as well as outside, it is necessary to amend the Act in order to provide for cases of pregnant women working underground. It is to give some benefit to the women working underground that this amendment is intended.

The provisions of this Bill are mainly two. As it is, there is already in the Act a provision which prohibits women working after delivery for four weeks. We now propose to add a provision prohibiting women working underground before confinement. That period will be a period of ten weeks, so that under the present Bill no woman would be allowed to work underground for ten weeks before her confinement. Similarly there is a provision for the benefit to be given to her. That benefit will be at the rate of twelve annas per day for fourteen weeks in all—ten weeks before confinement and four weeks after confinement.

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.]

The qualifying condition for enabling her to earn the benefit is 90 days work underground within a period of six months. These are mainly the provisions of this Bill.

Sir, I have noticed that there are certain amendments which have been tabled and I might tell the House that I have also thought of certain amendments which I want to move on behalf of the Government. But as the time is very short and as the matter is urgent, I think the interest of everybody concerned would be served, if the Bill were forthwith sent to the Select Committee, so that the amendments that I have in mind and the amendments that have been tabled could be considered round the table with mutual give and take. It is because of this proposal, *viz.*, to refer the Bill to the Select Committee (which was not my original intention) that I do not propose to dilate at any length on this Bill. With these observations I move.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Sir Syed Raza Ali, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. H. G. Stokes, Mr. S. C. Joshi and the Mover with instructions to report on Monday, the 2nd April, 1945, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

**Mrs. Renuka Ray (Nominated Non-Official):** Sir, in speaking on the motion to refer the Mines Maternity Benefit Bill to a Select Committee I want to put forward the view and the attitude of representative women in India. Sir,

3 P.M. we have heard what the Honourable the Labour Member told us about the Objects and Reasons for this Bill. The implication behind them is clear. It is true that it intends to prohibit pregnant women from working underground, but at the same time it is clear that Government do not intend to reimpose the ban, in spite of the fact that the House has made its opinion clear, and in spite of the fact that Government did not challenge a division and so naturally the country expected that Government was going to concede to the demand; and also regardless of the continued protest against the withdrawal of the ban since 1943. Women have now been working underground in mines for more than a year and a half, though at the time it was said that it was a very temporary measure. The introduction of this Bill means that Government not only do not intend to remove the ban, but it seems that till the war is over, women will continue to work underground. We find even in this Bill said again that "the measure is of an emergent and temporary nature, and that the ban will be reimposed as soon as conditions permit". I do not know when these conditions are going to be, when it will be possible for Government to reimpose the ban. At present even from the utilitarian point of view we find that during the last year when 18,000 women were working underground, coal production has fallen further by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., 23 million tons was the target and that figure has not been kept. Government have not been able, in spite of women working underground, to keep up, far from raising, the coal production. This is a serious menace to the country and one of the causes of the cloth famine. I wish to reiterate the argument I put forward on the Finance Bill that other fundamental causes are being overlooked. It is perfectly true to say that the mine-owner is really getting an indirect subsidy by keeping women underground because wages in coal mines have not yet come upto the same level as wages in the neighbouring industries, and if that were done, there would be no reason why in spite of utilitarian considerations, Government should not yield to the public demand in this matter.

So far as the Bill itself is concerned, it may, to some extent, alleviate suffering. I do not want to oppose the Bill, but I do want to point out that it is very inadequate, that it is less than a half measure, and that it can by no means satisfy the demand of the country for the reimposition of the ban. Sir, even as far as the Bill goes, I do not know whether it will be even as successful in what it intends to do because it is not so easy. For instance, today there exist

regulations in the mines about housing, but even now in some of the mines back to back dwellings still exist. Though they were condemned long ago. Even now we find that there are violations of the Childrens Act. Now that is a straight Act. This will be much more difficult to enforce. Last Session when I raised this subject about violating of the Childrens Act, the Honourable Member for Supply asked me to give him some cases. I reported to him cases in two mines. I have been down there myself, I have seen for myself, and boys who were below adult age were going down. This Session when questions were put in this House, the Labour Member replied that they did not have this information. You see how difficult it is in the case of a straight Act like Children's Act, properly to enforce it, how much more difficult will it be to enforce this Act. The only real way in which you can prohibit women working underground will be to reimpose the ban. As I have said before, it is not only a question of pregnant women, but of all women who are potential mothers. I should like to say that it is not possible for us to give our sympathy and support to this measure inasmuch as it is only a sop. I have no desire to obstruct it either as it is to alleviate the distress of some at least of these unfortunate women. It is not possible for us to enforce our demand on Government, however great that demand may be. But I should like to say to the Labour Member and his Colleagues that to concede a very just demand made on behalf of the down-trodden in the country is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign of strength on the part of Government. It will enhance their reputation greatly.

**Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan** (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I entirely endorse the views expressed by my Honourable friend, Mrs. Renuka Ray, and I would not have got up to supplement her remarks if I was not sure that this Government has a tendency to misrepresent our views and our actions. I am conscious that my Honourable friend, the Labour Member, is anxious to shorten this debate and save time, and I shall not therefore take up many minutes of this House. I would like, in a few words, to make my position quite clear both as regards this Bill and as regards the main question, that is, the ban on the employment of women underground in mines.

Sir, I would first like to reply to the remark made by the Honourable the Labour Member in the course of his replies to some supplementaries to my question regarding women miners. He characterised the vote of this House as a mere 'political demarche'. I was really surprised at this because surely he must remember the history of this ban. However I will now mention only one fact. I was an Adviser to the Government of India Delegation to the International Labour Conference in Geneva in 1934. It was at this Conference that all the delegations from all the Member Nations unanimously recommended an international convention prohibiting employment of women underground in mines. The Government of India ratified this convention, I think, in the following year. Surely the International Conference did not do this as a political stunt, nor did the Government of India adopt that attitude as a political stunt. I am mentioning this to impress on this Honourable House that this question of banning the employment of women underground in mines is certainly not political in any way, but is an entirely humanitarian one. Speaking for myself, I would never have agreed to join the Government of India delegation in 1934 if I had the slightest suspicion that the Government of that day were adopting that attitude as a mere political stunt to impress world opinion.

The next point to which I want to refer is the motion that is before the House now regarding the amendment to the Maternity Benefits Act. I do not oppose this Bill; in fact I support it, but that does not in any way affect my conviction that this ban against employment of women underground in mines should be reimposed as soon as possible. I do not oppose this Bill for the mere reason that I feel it is necessary to give some relief to these poor helpless women whom this Government insists on sending to work underground in mines. I regret that that relief is very poor and the number of women affected by it very small. I want to point out also that, while my Honourable friend tries to emphasise

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

that the withdrawal of the ban is a temporary measure, it is already one and half years old and it reminds me of a comparison in my language; that a thing is like Hanuman's tail when it goes on endlessly. I want to assure by Honourable friends opposite and this Honourable House that no amount of threats and biting comments can make me change my attitude with regard to this question. I shall continue to protest against this action of the Government and I shall continue to strive my very best for the reimposition of this ban, by trying in every way possible to cut off this Hanuman's tail.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have only one or two words to say on this. The absence of our two sisters, our colleagues Mrs. Renuka Ray and Mrs. Radha Bai Subbarayan, on the Select Committee calls for an explanation from us. We would have very much appreciated if these two sisters had agreed to be on this committee; but unfortunately they wanted to hold themselves in reserve lest the Honourable Member in charge of labour affairs should play some practical joke on the Select Committee and then get his own way and come here and get them also committed; and another reason is that they want to be loyal to the resolution passed by the All India Women's organisation. I appreciate their point of view. The Members on this side of the House are also in wholehearted sympathy with the attitude taken up by the All India women's organisation, that Government has done wrong in having lifted this ban, that Government should take the earliest possible steps to reimpose it; but subject to that we must do what little we can to improve this Bill so that when it becomes an Act, the lot of the women employed both on the ground and also below the ground in mines would be immediately improved, even while Government makes up its mind to reimpose this ban. It is for these reasons alone that we are going into the Select Committee and not because we are in any way in sympathy with the Government point of view that it is absolutely necessary for them to lift this ban and force these women—I will not call it allow these women, but to force them—to go underground and work in the mines.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Deputy President, at the outset, I would like to make it quite clear that neither the introduction of this Bill nor even the passing of it at an early date will reconcile me and the labour movement in this country to the employment of women underground in mines. The Government of India did a great wrong to the women miners in this country by beginning to employ them underground on the pretext, if I may say so, of labour shortage. If there was labour shortage, I have no doubt that the Government of India could have got, in a country with a population of 400 millions, a hundred thousand or two hundred thousand miners needed, by paying them properly. But unfortunately the Government of India does not believe in the policy of securing labour for raising coal, by paying them properly. Unfortunately, they believe in trying to secure the necessary labour by wrong methods; and one of the wrong methods—there are several methods used by the Government of India, but on this occasion I shall deal only with one wrong method with which we are concerned today—namely, by re-employing women underground. Sir, the Government of India not only did a wrong to the women in the mining area, but their purpose of securing more labour and raising more coal has not been achieved. I had suggested on several occasions that the Government of India should make an inquiry and ascertain facts through some impartial committee; unfortunately the Government of India refuses to do that. They are afraid of facing facts, and they continue to be blind and to follow a wrong policy. Public opinion in this country has expressed itself against the policy followed by the Government of India. Unfortunately, you know that the present Government of India is not responsive to the public opinion in this country at all. When the people in England heard that women were employed underground in India, there was a debate in the House of Commons, and somehow the Government of India is at least responsive or amenable to the public opinion in the House of Commons; there were references in the debate

there to the employment of pregnant women or women who are near their delivery, and the Government of India heard about it and this is the origin of the Bill. As the Bill is going to a Select Committee, I do not wish to take up the time of this House on this occasion. I shall have an opportunity of making my suggestions in the Select Committee, and after the Bill comes before the Legislature again I shall have another opportunity of dealing with the clauses of the Bill.

Lastly, I again make it quite clear that the passing of this Bill is not going to reconcile me to the employment of women underground in Indian mines.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I thought that on this very important matter some opinion should be expressed from our Party. Therefore I got up; there is another reason also; that in some quarters amongst some women there is an impression that I am against their welfare. So far as progressive matters are concerned, I do not wish that they should run too fast; but within reasonable limits I would always help them.

Coming to this measure, I call it even less than a half-way measure. I think the Honourable the Labour Member should have taken courage in both hands as he does when addressing us and giving us answers in a bold manner. I thought that he would comply with the demand and the agitation outside that the ban on women working underground should be re-imposed. In this Session, this has been one of the main items of discussion. From the very beginning the lady Members of this House and others have expressed their view that women should not be allowed to work underground. When questions were first put, the Honourable Member began to make excuses just as his other colleagues do. He said that it is the husbands themselves who want their wives to work underground. I think he was disillusioned on that point. He was asked by me whether he would take me to the mines; so that I may personally inquire of the husbands, but he did not do that. However, I am glad he is moving in the matter. At present he is providing that women should not work in mines ten weeks before the confinement is expected to take place, on a certificate given by a doctor. Some difficulty will arise there. If they have their own doctors and they are honest, there will be no difficulty. The Honourable Member should see to it that unnecessary objections are not raised in respect of the certificate. I would like to know whether it is proposed to provide in the Select Committee as to who will pay for the certificate. The women should not be made to pay. Then it is said that four weeks will be allowed to recoup the health of the women after confinement. Some women may remain in delicate health after confinement for more than four weeks. This matter should also be considered in the Select Committee. Instead of making laws by degrees and stages, this question of working in mines should be considered from all points of view and the Bill should be moulded accordingly and relief should be given. The excuse is put forward that this is a war measure and it is said that they should have all labour by compulsion or persuasion or inducement. So long as the war front is there, I will not blame the Treasury Benches. They accepted their posts in order to work for the British people and ignore the view point of the Indian people. I do not blame them but I request them that on this point they should be solicitous of the Indian point of view and they should do all they can for the welfare of women labour.

**Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam** (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): I want to say only a word or two. We have nothing to find fault with this Government so far as industrial labour is concerned. We blame them only as regards agricultural labour. As regards industrial labour they are doing whatever is necessary. It is futile to attempt to uphold in regard to these legislations any theory of abstract right. It is all a question of probability and degree. This Government with all their faults are considering the question from the stand point of probability and degree. I am satisfied with attitude of Government in regard to factory legislation: I will not go into details as the Bill is being referred to a Select Committee.

As regards the desirability of stopping the employment of women underground, there are no two opinions. Everybody wants that this system should

[Mr. Ananiga Mohan Dam.]

be stopped. It is only a question of convenience and expediency that the Government has to consider. I hope that this question will be discussed threadbare in the Committee and everything possible will be done in the interest of women labour working in the mines. With these words, I support the motion before the House.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani** (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): I find from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that women shall not be allowed to work in mines for four weeks after confinement. But practical experience points out that no woman is fit for working even after a month of her delivery. The doctors may be consulted on this point. I hope the Government will consider this and raise this period of four weeks to at least six weeks.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**: Sir, I do not think I need say much in reply to what has been said by the Honourable Members who have taken part in this discussion. One thing however I would like to say, namely, that I appreciate very much the spirit of the speakers which shows that the two questions, namely, the question of the women working underground and the questions arising out of this Bill should be separated and I am glad to say that they have been separated by the speakers who spoke on the Bill. They have expressed their opinion on the question of the merits of allowing women to work underground. The views of the Government have already been expressed and I have no quarrel with those who differ from Government but I am glad to say that all those who have spoken have realised the necessity of the Bill I have brought forward and I hope I shall continue to have the co-operation which they have exhibited in this House now.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:—

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Sir Syed Raza Ali, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. H. G. Stokes, Mr. S. C. Joshi and the Mover with instructions to report on Monday, the 2nd April, 1945, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

### THE FACTORIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the report of the Select Committee has been before the House for quite a long time. I have no doubt that Honourable Members who take interest in this subject have read and digested what the Select Committee has to say. I will therefore do no more than to draw attention of the House to some of the fundamental changes which the Select Committee has made in the Bill as introduced by me. Sir, the Select Committee has altogether made five important and fundamental changes. The first change that the Select Committee has made is to save the rights to any holidays with pay that might accrue to a workman, otherwise than under the Act, such as holidays that may be permissible under other enactments or holidays that may be permissible under an award or an agreement or a contract of service. That provision did not exist in the original Bill. But it has now been introduced by the addition of sub-clause (2) to section 49-A. The second change which the Select Committee has made is to extend the benefit of the holidays with pay to children which again was not found in the original Bill as it was introduced to this House. Not only the Select Committee has extended the provisions of the Bill to a child but the holidays themselves have been extended in number. For a workman the holidays are only seven days. But to a child, the holidays shall be 14 days. Honourable Members will find that in the new amendment to section 49-B. Then, Sir, the House will remember that when the Bill was introduced it did not contain any provisions to cover cases of workman who was discharged before he had earned his holiday or had resigned his post and therefore did not



get his holiday. I said that that was a matter which might be left to be subsequently decided in such a manner as we thought best. The Select Committee thought that it was so important a case that provision ought to be introduced in the Bill and accordingly a new provision has been introduced.

Another new principle which has been introduced in the Bill is the power given to the Inspector to act on behalf of a worker who has not been able to get his holidays or has not been able to get the pay which he is entitled to obtain as a result of the holiday. The Select Committee realised that it was no use leaving the worker to his resources in order to prosecute his employer either criminally or civilly in order to secure the benefit which the Act gives him and which the employer has failed to give him. Therefore it was the duty of the State to take upon itself the responsibility of seeing that these benefits were secured to the workmen. This has now been done by the conferment of the power on the Inspector to act on behalf of a worker.

Another important change which has been made by the Select Committee is with regard to the making of the rules. Honourable Members will recollect that in the original Bill, the power for making rules under the Act in order to give effect to the provisions was left to the provinces. Now, it was felt in the Select Committee that if the rule-making power was left to the provinces the different provinces might make different set of rules, and consequently there might be variety of provisions under the same Act. That undoubtedly would have very serious consequences on the different industries. One industry, in one province may be subjected to one set of rules, a similar industry in another province may be subjected to a different set of rules and it would introduce a very undesirable element in the competitive character of the industry taking India as a whole. The Select Committee therefore recommended that the Government of India should have the authority to give directions to the provinces in the matter of making rules so that the desire or the object of securing uniformity in these rules would be achieved. These are, Sir, some of the fundamental principles which have been incorporated in the Bill as a result of the deliberations in the Select Committee. The rest of the provisions are more or less as they were in the original Bill and call for no comment. Sir, I move.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Honourable Member in charge was congratulating the Select Committee. It is true that two or three of the points that were made at the time when the Bill was being committed to the Select Committee have come to be noticed by the Select Committee and accepted. But it has dropped a very important word for which at least my Honourable friend has given a very lame excuse. I wish to tell him that this fascination for uniformity is not well justified. Take the railways for instance. Day after day we are having discussions with the Railway Member regarding matters affecting different railways, salaries, wages, emoluments, etc. If that is right, I do not know how it can be wrong if different provinces come to extend this privilege of leave beyond the minimum period of seven days or 14 days. Rather this is a reactionary move on the part of the Select Committee. Then, Sir, there may be certain Provincial Governments who may be willing to go beyond this particular minimum period of leave and favour the workers—I should not say favour the workers—thus help the workers, because the workers deserve much greater leave than the minimum period provided here. Moreover, where is the question of uniformity in regard to wages earned in Bombay or Ahmedabad by the mill workers as compared to the wages earned by similar mill workers working in Coimbatore or Madras. The Coimbatore workers do not get even half as much as Bombay and Ahmedabad workers get. It may be a little more than half, but certainly very much less than what the Bombay and Ahmedabad workers get. If it cannot be wrong for Bombay Industry to pay higher wages than those paid by Coimbatore industry, then how can it be wrong if the Bombay industry, through the good offices of the Bombay Government, were to choose to grant

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

leave to a greater extent than what is provided anywhere else. If this is a concurrent subject I do not want the Government of India to fetter the hands of the Provincial Governments, if any one of them is doing greater justice to the workers than the Government of India. All that the Government of India can be expected to do is to lay down minimum standards—not the maximum—and leave it to the Provincial Governments, if any one of them were to be willing to go beyond the minimum that may be prescribed by the Central Government.

Then there is another point that was made by several of us the other day. Why do you insist that a worker should continue to be employed for one year continuously in the same factory if he is to be entitled to enjoy this leave? It must be made possible for a worker, if the conditions of work in any one factory are not quite satisfactory, to leave that factory and go to another one in the same place or in another place, without any prescribed period, and get himself employed there. And if he has put in one year's continuous industrial employment within the same factory or two or more factories within the same year it must be possible for him to be entitled to this holiday. We made that suggestion but the Select Committee does not seem to have considered it; or, if it has considered it, it does not seem to have made any helpful amendments at all.

Sir, these are two of my most important objections to the Select Committee's Report. We have tabled a number of amendments, some of which deal also with the duration of the holiday. We hope the House will be willing to co-operate with us in getting as many of those amendments as possible accepted by Government and incorporated in this Bill. My feeling about the work of the Select Committee is both satisfaction and dissatisfaction.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official). Sir, I have not many remarks to make regarding the changes made by the Select Committee in the original Bill. I should have liked, as I said in my speech when the Bill was referred to Select Committee, that the provisions of the Bill had been applied to workers engaged in other occupations instead of the benefits being confined only to those who are working in factories. I would have liked the provisions of the Bill to be extended to those people who are working in mines, on plantations and in various other industries. Unfortunately I could not get the Select Committee to accept the change which I should have liked to be made. And I do not blame the Select Committee either, because the original Bill was framed by the Government of India in such a manner that the Select Committee itself perhaps could not make the change which I wanted.

Then, Sir, I was rather disappointed that the Select Committee did not accept my proposal that the continuous holidays should be for a fortnight at least and not for seven days; and although I could not persuade the Select Committee to accept my view I am hoping that the House will support me when we come to discuss my amendments. I am glad that the Select Committee has given an extended holiday than was proposed by the Government of India to children.

Another point on which I am disappointed with the action of the Select Committee or with the refusal of the Select Committee to accept my view is that I would have liked the workers to get before they began their holidays full pay for the days of the leave with pay. The Bill proposes that they should get only half the wages. I consider that the payment of only half the wages will not give much material help. I would like the wages for the days of the holidays to be paid before the holidays begin.

Then there is one defect which still remains in this Bill, in spite of the Bill having been examined by the Select Committee, which is that in order to be entitled to get the benefit of this Bill the worker must continue to work in one factory for twelve months. I think this is a very faulty clause. I had explained in my speech on the motion for reference to Select Committee that a provision of this kind tends to bind down the worker to one factory. From the point of view of the worker this is not a very good arrangement. Under the present conditions in India, if a worker has to get better wages and better conditions,



the only weapon which he can use to secure his object is to go to another factory where conditions are better or at least to hold out a threat that he would leave and go to another place where he expects to have better conditions. I therefore do not like any provision which will be an obstacle in the way of the worker going to another factory. A provision of this kind under which the worker is tempted to remain with one employer is not, from the point of view of the worker, beneficial to him on the whole. I would therefore like that the benefit of this Bill should be given to a worker who may change his employment from one factory to another. There also the Select Committee disappointed me and I am hoping to secure justice at the hands of the Members of this House.

Sir, I have nothing more to add, and whatever else I have to say I shall say when I move my amendments. I support the motion.

**Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar** (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I will only deal with one point raised by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga which does not seem to be covered by any amendment and that is about the omission of the words "at least seven days". The position is that labour legislation is a subject of both Central and provincial legislation. Really speaking, it is open to the provinces to legislate even with regard to holidays with pay, but when the Central Government deals with this matter in a Bill I presume the object is to lay down a form which would prevail in the absence of any provincial legislation. Even now on the question of principle I do not see anything wrong because in all such matters where statutory burdens are imposed on industries it is desirable that all provinces should more or less run on similar lines; otherwise, as is happening now as a result of income-tax anomalies, the tendency is to drive industries from British India into the Indian States. And if one Provincial Government goes on imposing burden after burden on the industries within the province the tendency will be, as was evident in 1937 and 1938 in Bombay that industrialists would consider whether the time had not come for them to transfer some of their industries from a province like Bombay to another province where Government were not prepared to put the same burdens on industries in their province. Therefore if you have to consider the country as a whole it is desirable, from the national point of view, that as far as possible whenever such burdens are imposed they should be of a uniform character. It has nothing to do with the question of wages or allowances; but such burdens, when they are imposed in the interests of national welfare, should be of a uniform character.

Even now, Sir, as the law stands at present, if a Provincial Government wants to go beyond what is allowed by the Government of India, it is open—as I understand the law; if I am wrong the Law Member will correct me—it is open to a Provincial Government to promote the legislation and to go to the Governor-General for sanction and if the Governor-General accords his sanction, it is open to that Provincial Government to enact it in the province. So the power of a Provincial Government to promote a piece of legislation going beyond the scope of the Central legislation is not taken away. All that will happen is that the Government of India will get an opportunity of considering whether the necessary sanction should be given having regard to the interest of the country as a whole. This is a very necessary and salutary safeguard and therefore I say that what the Select Committee has done is not of a retrograde nature at all but is in the interest of the country as a whole.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have only a few words to say. I have read the Minutes of Dissent recorded by two Honourable Members—Mr. Joshi and Mr. Inskip. Before I say anything in regard to the Minutes of Dissent, I must admit that this Bill, as it has emerged from the Select Committee, is in an improved form. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi's point deserves consideration because it is based on his experience. He wants that this Bill should not be restricted to workers in industrial undertakings but it should also be applied to workers in other organised industries. I cannot understand why it is restricted to factories only, and I hope the Honourable Member in charge will throw some light on this point.

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

The other point raised by him is: "The worker should be given not half but full wages for the period of the holidays before he takes the holiday". That is very reasonable, I think. In the case of Government servants, when casual leave or privilege leave is given, they are given full pay. In the case of workers, they are poor people and if you give them holiday to have a little respite and to enjoy, they should have something in their pockets as well. They cannot go without money. That, I think, is a reasonable demand.

With regard to the Minute of Dissent recorded by Mr. Inskip, it is stated that distinction should be made between 'holiday leave' and 'other leave' and it is suggested that when they go on leave, it should be for a certain purpose—for some ceremonial occasion, or for some other domestic work. It is also suggested that when they go home, they revert to their former agricultural pursuits and in such a cessation of occupation the employer has no obligation to grant him remuneration. Therefore he asks for a distinction to be made in the nature of holiday. I do not agree with that at all. When they go on leave, they have to do something—they cannot go home and sit idle; nobody can sit without work—but they cannot work as hard as they do in factories. They just help their family members by working for a short while. Therefore, I do not think that the suggestion which is made here is reasonable. I hope the Honourable Member in charge will consider these points.

**Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Laljee** (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I quite agree with the Report of the Select Committee but I would like to point out—as has been rightly pointed out by my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar—that in such legislation we have got to take into consideration the position of India as a whole. As you know, Sir, it is open to the Provincial Legislature to pass enactments, and at times they are of such a nature that the industrial business moves from one province to another. Not only that, but the one thing which we have been neglecting is the position of industry in Indian States. There was a time when people did not like to go to Indian States for establishing industries. It is quite the reverse now. People are anxious to go there because they get a lot of benefits; States are anxious to invite people and they offer most favourable terms. Therefore, in fact, the factories in Indian States are placed in a much better position than the factories in British India. You will invariably find that the Indian States give a complete monopoly to the industrial concerns in regard to the goods they manufacture; they go out of their way to stop imports of those goods from other provinces. This is a very serious matter.

The Bill which my Honourable friend, the Labour Member, is now introducing is very very essential and welcome, but my point is that the Honourable Member for Labour and his other Honourable colleagues on the Treasury Benches should see that the Indian States also fall in in such matters in the interest of humanity and in the interest of India as a whole. We do not make any distinctions whatsoever between the Indian State subjects and British Indian subjects. In fact, an Indian State subject can establish a factory wherever he likes—there is no bar to his doing so, there is no question of monopoly whatsoever—but so far as a British Indian subject is concerned, he has to face many difficulties and handicaps if he chooses to establish a factory in an Indian State. For instance, many of the Indian States have started another theory—they give concessions only to such industrialists who are known as *Mulkis*, i.e., those who belong to their own State. Howsoever favourable the position may be, howsoever intelligent and influential an industrialist

4 P. M. may be, he will not be allowed in certain of the Indian States because he does not happen to be a *mulki*. The Colonial people also want their own people to be there. In many of the premier Indian States the theory has been put forward by those Governments that only *mulkis* will be allowed to establish factories. They are not even bound to carry out the dictates of the legislature for the benefit of humanity. We have to consider the position of industry in British India. It may be said that we have very little power

over the Indian States. I concede that. But we have examples before us that when on the Western Coast of India smuggling, so far as the customs revenue was concerned, was going on, the British Government warned them and ultimately, Sir, put a big cordon on the Viramgam line, not allowing these goods to go without paying tax again in British India. As soon as that was done all that trouble has gone and the Indian ports are paying as they were doing. Likewise is the case with the Kathiawar and other ports. You will also see that where there has been a question of excise duty the Government of India have been using their political influence and they have taken care to see that all the excise on the Indian industries is equally put on the Indian States and it has been equally distributed. Take sugar or matches or any such thing. When the revenue question of the Government of India is concerned, they do take pretty good care. But let me say that it will be in the interests of the Government of India if the Political Department use their influence to make the Indian States, in the interest of humanity, have a uniform mode of treating Indians.

**Mr. A. C. Inskip** (United Provinces: European): This Bill I think will be considered a progressive one and one which all fair-minded employers of labour will accept. But the clauses assume that labour conditions are the same throughout India whereas they differ very much, as I have endeavoured to point out in my minute of dissent attached to the Select Committee report, particularly in Eastern India. There you have labour who only come to the industrial towns for short periods and it has been an accepted rule that they go back to their villages to carry on their agricultural work and other work. I have endeavoured to make this point quite clear in my minute of dissent to the Select Committee and will not therefore labour the point any more.

But since the Select Committee met, I have made further enquiries in Cawnpore, which as you know, Sir, is a large industrial centre. If the Bill is passed in its present form with the word "consecutive" left in, I contend that this is going to be bad for labour in that they are going to be penalised. During the past fortnight I have endeavoured to take a cross section of labour conditions in Cawnpore. I have taken a cotton mill, I have taken a woollen mill, and I have taken a large leather factory, where over 20,000 men are employed, and I said to myself, in taking this cross section, how many of these people would qualify for leave if the Bill in its present form goes through. It might surprise the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill that based on attendance for 1944, only 60 per cent. of that labour would qualify. Now I contend that you would be penalising the remaining 40 per cent. in that all factories will presumably, if this word 'consecutive' is left, close down for a stated period during the year. 60 per cent. of the labour will therefore be paid under the Bill for 'holidays with pay'—and the remaining 40 per cent. will be out of employment without any pay.

Now, Sir, there is another aspect which I would like to bring out and that is if this word "consecutive" is left out of the Explanation under section 49B of the Bill, it would enable employers of labour to give this leave unconditionally. In the conditions which obtain in Eastern India and particularly in the Calcutta area, it has been the practice for a number of years not to give consecutive leave but to give leave up to twelve days during the year for festivals and with pay. And now I contend that if this Bill becomes law employers may have to withdraw the privilege of giving festival holidays with pay when, under the present Bill, they have also to give seven days leave annually with pay. Therefore, before this Bill becomes law I would ask the Member in charge to give these two points his consideration.

There is one other point which I have endeavoured to bring out in my minute of dissent. No mention has been made in the Bill that annual holidays with pay will be given at the discretion of the employer. In a large factory, it will be impossible, however much one would like to do it, to give individual employees the right to say when they are to take the seven days and when they are not. In most factories, I presume, the employees will elect possibly

[Mr. A. C. Inskip.]

the most important festival throughout the season—shall we say, Holi, and to that leave period he will no doubt add the seven days leave with pay. But I do feel, to ensure that work in a factory is not disturbed, the Manager of the factory must be given the right to say when annual leave is to be taken.

There is one other point—the question of sickness and accident. As you will note in my minute of dissent I have stated that the words “sickness and accident” as at present shown in the Bill are not clearly defined. Leave for sickness, particularly in the case of big factories is always granted when a genuine medical certificate is produced. But I have heard of many cases in my own town where disreputable medical practitioners are actually selling medical certificates for the sum of Rs. 2 and Rs. 3. A case came to my notice only two or three months ago where a certain employer was receiving a spate of medical certificates printed on a set form and signed certifying that the workman had been sick and that he should be granted leave. The employer concerned made enquiries in this regard and in conjunction with the civil surgeon, sent a representative to ascertain in one case whether the man was sick or not. It was found that the man was joining in a marriage ceremony of a relative and was not sick at all. In this case, had the man applied for leave on the ground that he wanted to attend the marriage ceremony of a relation I feel sure that he would have been granted leave. But, no, he elected to say that he was sick and paid Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 for a doctor's certificate. The medical practitioner in this case was sent for by the civil surgeon and was warned against issuing certificates of that kind. I quote that case because I feel that if the definition of the words sickness and accident is left to the rule-making power, then it will not cover all cases. I have entered an amendment to the clause in that respect and I will have more to say about that later on.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I do not think it is necessary for me to deal with each and every point that has been raised by Honourable Members who have spoken on this motion, particularly because I find that every point which has been made by Honourable Members is covered by an amendment. Consequently there will be a duplication of debate, which I do not propose to undertake. I will say what I have to say on the various points when the appropriate amendments are moved.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** Are there any amendments to clause 2?

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural):** I have some but I do not propose to move them.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** The question is:

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Sir, I have got an amendment on clause 3. My amendment is this:

“That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B after the word ‘factory’ the words ‘or factories’ be inserted.”

The object of my amendment is to enable a worker who has put in continuous service for twelve months to secure a continuous holiday, although during these 12 months he may have changed his employment from one factory to another or even to three factories. I have explained in my previous speeches on this point that it is not in the interests of the workers that there should be any temptation thrown in their way which will influence them to stick to one factory although the conditions in that factory may not be quite satisfactory. Mobility or the power to change from one factory to another is a very useful weapon in the hands of a worker to secure better terms. Therefore I am

proposing that the continuous service may be not only in one factory but in more than one factory.

I am asked who will pay? The various employers will pay. The object of the Bill is to give the worker a continuous holiday and that holiday has to be paid for by the employer or employers. Now, Sir, it is true that if the payment is to be made by one employer it is easier and if the payment is to be made by more than one employer we shall have to devise some method by which two or three employers can pay for the holiday together. Now, Sir, some people think, though they are big business men, that this is a very very difficult thing to do. Nothing of the kind. There are various devices used when we meet with a difficulty of this kind. For instance, if under an employer a worker has spent six months he will have to pay for the holiday earned during the six months and he will give the worker some certificate putting some stamp which stamp may be used by the ultimate employer who will have to pay for the holiday. These devices are not very difficult and they can be provided for. As a matter of fact I had foreseen these difficulties. It is not that these difficulties were not foreseen by me. Therefore I am making another amendment a little later on in clause 3 of the Bill, sub-section (2) providing for certain rules to be made by the Provincial Government by which payment can be arranged. That amendment is amendment No. 10, "providing how and by whom the payment of wages for the holidays shall be made in the case of a worker who puts in continuous service for twelve months in more than one factory". So we shall have to provide by rules how a worker who puts in continuous service for 12 months in more than one factory can be paid for his holiday. These rules should be made by Provincial Governments and therefore I hope that my amendment will be accepted by the House and I would suggest to the Members that any difficulty regarding payment can be solved by a proper device.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B after the word 'factory' the words 'or factories' be inserted."

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Instead of that I have another amendment:

"That in clause 3 of the Bill, in line 2 of sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B, the following be inserted after the word 'factory':

'or factories belonging to the same management or different managements, provided the interval between the cessation of employment in one factory and the commencement of employment in another does not exceed a week if the new place of employment is in the same town, or, a fortnight if it is in another town'."

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

If there are any doubts at all about the feasibility of the working of the Act if Mr. Joshi's amendment is accepted.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): On a point of order, may I ask if the amendment, that the Honourable Member has moved, has been circulated?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: What is the minimum notice—48 hours: more than that has been given.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member moved the amendment?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: I have moved it. If there is any doubt at all as to the workability of the Act if Mr. Joshi's amendment is accepted, that doubt is sought to be removed by this amendment. I think this amendment is self-explanatory. My Honourable friend the Law Member says it needs explanation. I do not know what more explanation is to be given. It is not possible to expect a worker to continue to remain in employment in the same factory even if that factory belongs to the same management which has other factories under it, as the management may find it necessary to shift the worker from one factory to another. What happens then? If the Select Committee's Report and the Bill amended by them were to be accepted, it would mean

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

that the worker will not be entitled to this leave, because he is not working in the same factory continuously for over twelve months. This difficulty has to be met. My amendment seeks to meet that difficulty. Then a worker has to work under the same management continuously for twelve months in order to entitle him to this minimum holiday of 7 days, or, as we propose, 10 days. He then very nearly becomes an abject slave of his employer.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** You move that amendment afterwards.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I have moved it. What happens? The employer always manages to keep within the four corners of the law—Payment of Wages Act, etc.,—but nevertheless imposes so many restrictions and creates so many difficulties for the poor worker, and if a worker is not satisfied with his conditions of employment and wants to seek employment in another factory, he runs the risk of losing this privilege of enjoying 7 days holidays. And when twelve months come to a close, even then he will be in difficulty, he will not be able to leave that employment as after the holiday he may have to go back to the same employer and be employed under him to become entitled to his leave pay, and then after drawing his pay and then alone, he can put an end to his service under that employer. You should really not subject the worker to these troubles. It is ordinary common humanity that we should give the liberty, if necessary, if conditions are intolerable, to leave his employer and seek employment in another factory.

Then, the question arises what interval should be allowed between the cessation of employment in one factory and the commencement of employment in another factory. Are you to leave it entirely to the discretion of the worker alone? I say no. I have made provision in my amendment for a week's interval if the place of employment is in the same town or a fortnight if it is in another town. It must be possible in normal circumstances to find employment in another factory within a week.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is the second amendment. Has that been moved too?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The first amendment I have moved. Supposing conditions of employment are really very bad, and there is unemployment. The worker runs the risk of not getting any employment and so he will continue in his old job, even though he is subjected to great difficulties, for otherwise he will lose his job completely. But if there is any employer to take him on and is prepared to offer him better terms, you must make it possible for him to leave his former employer and to take up another job, if conditions there are better.

It has been the long-standing complaint of industrialists that there is great absenteeism. Very well, that is a legitimate complaint to some extent, but this is not going to encourage absenteeism at all. He may be passing from one factory to another, but he will be working in another factory. Holiday with leave is in the general interests of industry as a whole, and as long as the interests of industry are safeguarded, it is the duty of Government to see that the interests of the workers are safeguarded by making it possible for a worker to work in more than one factory within the same year provided he puts in continuous service and thus becomes entitled to leave with pay. Sir, I move this amendment, and I hope Government will see their way to accept it.

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

"That in clause 3 of the Bill, in line 2 of sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B, the following be inserted after the word 'factory':

'or factories belonging to the same management or different managements, provided the interval between the cessation of employment in one factory and the commencement of employment in another does not exceed a week if the new place of employment is in the same town, or, a fortnight if it is in another town'."

**Mr. A. C. Inskip:** I have an amendment to clause 3.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is the Honourable Member moving an amendment?

**Mr. A. C. Inskip:** Yes, Sir, I am moving another amendment to clause 3.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Please wait.

**Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar:** Sir, I am sorry I have to oppose both the amendments, the one moved by Mr. Joshi, and the other moved by Prof. Ranga. Apart from the administrative difficulties to which Mr. Joshi referred, and which perhaps could be solved with a great deal of ingenuity, I submit the principle underlying the amendments is wrong. Sir, I want this House to remember one point. We are imposing a statutory—I will not call it a burden—liability on employers. Generally leave is a matter settled by rules and regulations and not by a statute. Even in Government service, as far as I remember the very first rule makes it clear, leave is a matter of concession and is not one of right. You are changing that, you are introducing the principle that leave is a matter of right and not of concession. Having accepted the principle of the Bill I am not going to dispute that principle underlying this Bill. My only submission is this: that in pursuing this legislation this aspect of the question has got to be considered. It is not a purely one-sided affair, that one can look at it from the point of view of the employees or of the employers. Here is a measure which imposes a statutory liability on the employers, that after an employee serves you for a continuous period of twelve months you shall give him seven days leave. Now, even where leave is a matter of private arrangement or rules, it is a well understood practice that when an employee leaves his employer at his sweet will, he does not carry with him to the other establishment where he goes the leave which has accrued to him and which he has not enjoyed. He has got to work for 12 months to enjoy the leave; and I believe it is one of the rules of Government service that unless he comes back and rejoins, he may get into trouble under the Government Service rules; but I am not going into that question. Here we have accepted this liability, and I want that the employee should realise his responsibility to the employer. Mr. Joshi says that if you do not do this, you weaken the bargaining power of the employee. I go further and I put the other side of the thing. If you accept the amendments, you will lower the efficiency of the working of the factories. My friend Prof. Ranga said that this will reduce absenteeism. May I point out to him, with my experience of labour matters, that absenteeism is not due to the desire of the worker to work elsewhere when he stays at home but simply due to laziness or to have a little holiday or rest, and that absenteeism has increased during the last two or three years when their earnings have gone up, as they can afford to spend their time at home and spend their earnings. They do not have to go and work in another factory. In Bombay, in order to reduce this absenteeism and to make employees stick to the mill as far as possible, we introduced the principle of what is known as *budli* legislation; Rules were made and we implemented and enforced them. And it has even been acknowledged by labour leaders that the measures taken by us have stabilised labour and have done good to labour, because a man who is known as a *budli* is attached to a particular mill and generally as he goes further and further he gets a long spell of work and finally within three or four years he steps into a permanent vacancy and goes on working till he is old and retires or leaves to go to another place.

Now, take a big city like Bombay where the wages are more or less uniform and we have standardised wages as far as what is known as fixed wage earners are concerned—people who are paid by the day. As regards piece earnings we have also laid down certain standards; and if a complaint is made that any particular mill does not come up to the standard, the association intervenes and tries to pull up the standard to the standard which has been accepted by us as at least the minimum which a worker on piece work should earn. This being so, there is no question of a man trying to better his prospects by going from one mill to another. Apart from that, I submit it is wrong in principle that an employee's leave should run with the employee as covenants run with the land—that wherever he goes, he takes his leave with him. This is an



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unheard of principle. I have never heard of it; and apart from the administrative difficulty, it is from the point of view of this principle that I oppose it. Perhaps my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi may be able to get over the administrative difficulty by devising rules and machinery—I quite admit that it is possible—I have not gone into that question; but I object to the principle underlying this amendment; for 12 months, which is supposed to be everywhere the minimum service which a man has to work for an employer, he has got to be with the employer for that period, and if he wants to go and take up another service at the end of 14 or 15 months, he must run the risk of losing the leave which may have accrued to him as a result of (extra) three months service. According to Mr. Joshi's principle or the principle laid down by Prof. Ranga, the moment I work for a day, leave begins to accrue to me. It is like a Hindu male child—as soon as he is born, if he belongs to a joint Hindu family, he becomes the owner of a particular share of the joint family property. That is the principle which my friend Mr. Joshi wants to introduce in this labour legislation, which I submit is certainly wrong and should not be accepted by this House.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Sir, I am afraid it is not possible for me to accept either of the amendments which have been proposed by Mr. Joshi or Prof. Ranga. I quite understand that a workman who has put in the requisite amount of service should be entitled to get his holidays irrespective of the consideration as to whether he has served one employer or more than one employer. But two facts have to be taken into consideration. The first is the question of administrative feasibility. I am quite satisfied that unless we have a sort of an insurance system where the payments to be made by employers are de-personalised and fastened upon some fund, it would not be possible to work the provisions, if I were to accept the amendments proposed by my Honourable friends. It, for instance, a scheme of health insurance were to come into operation; then we would have the basis of a system of cards, stamps and the other administrative machinery for insurance purposes, and then an amendment of the sort which has been moved would be possible to accept. But for the present, I am sorry to say that I cannot see my way to accept this amendment.

I should also like to submit that it was the desire of the House or of the Select Committee that a date should be fixed for the Bill to come into force. As my Honourable friends will recall, we had in the original Bill left the date for the operation of the Bill to the Provincial Governments. But we have departed from that procedure and we have now accepted the principle that this Bill itself should lay down the date on which it shall come into force; and the date as fixed in the Bill is the first day of January 1946. It is therefore quite clear that all administrative machinery that is necessary for the giving effect to this Bill must be brought into being within or before the 1st January 1946; and I must confess my utter inability to comprehend the possibility either of the Government of India or of the Provincial Governments being in a position to set into operation the machinery that would be necessary to give effect to the provisions contained in the two amendments. As I said, I have sympathy but the administrative difficulties are so great that I must at this stage oppose the amendment.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** May I make one suggestion, if it is agreeable to the Government—not otherwise? In the first line, suppose we drop the words “or different managements” in the amendment proposed and merely say “or factories belonging to the same management”?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I find difficulty in all that: I have paid attention to that.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will put Mr. Joshi's amendment first: the question is:



"That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B after the word 'factory' the words 'or factories' be inserted."

The motion was negatived.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Now I will put Prof. Ranga's amendment.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Sir, may I ask the leave of the House to withdraw my amendment?

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

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: Sir, I have got an amendment—No. 6:

"That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-sections (1) and (2) of the proposed section 49B for the word 'seven' the word 'ten' be inserted."

In place of seven days I want ten days to be consecutive holidays. There is another amendment standing in the name of my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi for fourteen days: if he moves that, then both the amendments may be discussed together.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: But I have an amendment earlier than that—that the words 'at least' be inserted before the word 'seven'.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi**: That amendment must come first.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: I have moved.

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

"That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-sections (1) and (2) of the proposed section 49B for the word 'seven' the word 'ten' be inserted."

**Mr. N. M. Joshi**: My amendment must come first, if Prof. Ranga is also moving his amendment.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can formally move his amendment.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi**: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B for the word 'seven' the word 'fourteen' be substituted."

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

"That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B for the word 'seven' the word 'fourteen' be substituted."

There is no amendment to this effect.

**Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: I have already moved my amendment. Mr. Joshi will speak for me.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi**: The object of the amendment is to give a larger holiday to the workers than is provided for in the Bill. Sir, my friend Mr. Inskip stated with some truth that the holiday provided for is too short to meet the needs of a large number of workers. We are providing in the Bill for a holiday of seven days and he is quite right in stating that the holiday in the case of a large number of workers may prove too short to be availed of. Therefore I am proposing that the holiday should be a longer one, to meet one of the objections of Mr. Inskip and also to provide the worker with better amenities. I have no doubt you will all agree that the holiday of six days is really too short to be useful for the purpose for which that holiday is intended. The holiday is intended to give a man a chance of going out of the place where he is working and enjoying better amenities, better climate or meeting friends and spending his time in amusement and recreation. When a holiday is only of six days, that purpose cannot be served. I shall give you the instance of people who are working in the textile industry of Bombay. They come from what are known as the Konkan districts. They will take at least one day to go and one day to come back and what is left is only five days out of 7. Five days are not sufficient to enjoy. After spending a large amount of money, because travelling expenses are high nowadays, if a man can remain only five days in the place to which he goes, he certainly does not get the best value for the money he spends. The Bill is providing that the man should get his wages for six days. Six days' wages may be, say, on an average only Rs. 6 and Rs. 6 are not sufficient. The average wage in Bombay is about Rs. 30.

**Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar**: Not now.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi**: These people say 'not now'. I want to know whether they have changed the basic rates of wages. They have not. The dearness

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allowance may have changed but the basic rates are not changed at all. We are thinking of a permanent piece of legislation. The cost of living has gone up. Before the war, the average wage in the textile industry in Bombay was one rupee per day or Rs. 30 a month. If a man goes on a holiday to Konkan Rs. 6 is not sufficient to go and come back. If he gets a longer holiday he will enjoy better and his health will be very much recouped, if not completely. He can get more rest and the efficiency of production will increase. My friend Mr. Ayyangar has moved an amendment for ten days. It does not give me pleasure to move my amendment simply for the sake of moving the amendment. If there is a chance of Mr. Ayyangar's amendment being carried, then I am prepared to accept his amendment for ten days, if I cannot get any support for my amendment. I am prepared to withdraw my amendment if the Congress Party will support Mr. Ayyangar's amendment and there is a chance of it being carried. As a practical man I am prepared to accept Mr. Ayyangar's amendment for ten days and I therefore ask for leave to withdraw my amendment.

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

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I support Mr. Ayyangar's amendment. It does not need very many arguments to establish the case of the workers for a ten days holiday. Let Honourable Members remember what leave with pay is being granted even to the ordinary dattaris or duffedars that are to be found in our Taluq offices and as regards the higher officials of the Government, you know what privileges are showered upon them. The conditions of employment and of life of these industrial workers are not at all enviable. Their housing conditions especially are horrible. Most of them are obliged to live in unspeakable *chawls* with very little housing accommodation and with very little social conveniences. Let us not think that the whole country is like Bombay. May be, there are some employers in Bombay who provide some social amenities. I have no definite information myself so far as the generosity of the Bombay employers is concerned but I know the conditions prevailing in certain of the mills in Madras, Coimbatore, Madurai and in other places of the Madras Presidency. Secondly, no social amenities are provided by many of our Indian management. There are no latrine facilities, no water facilities and then on account of the fear of the Inspector, the workers are allowed the use of latrines on rare occasions. For taking their mid-day meal no shelter is provided. Their conditions are horrible. No wonder there is absenteeism, apart from other reasons. If you want to make factory life a little more attractive than what it is today, then certainly you must be willing to make the life of the worker a little more tolerable. One of the ways of doing this is by extending this privilege of holidays. Seven days are hardly enough. It may be that in Bombay, the Honourable Member for Labour himself will be able to say—because a large percentage of Bombay labour comes from his district of Ratnagiri, the Honourable Member will be able to say whether five days are enough. Let him recall his earlier experience with the workers and let him recall the troubles that they have to undergo, how many things they have got to settle in their homes before they could return back to duty. Surely my Honourable friend though donning a new suit should not forget his past association. He should tell us whether seven days are enough. They are not enough, let me tell him. Most of the workers are not domiciled in towns, they come from the country parts and that is why they have to go back to their villages if they get holidays. They have no real social life in cities. It may be that in places like Bombay, sometimes the worker picks up the cow dung lying in front of his *chawl* and uses it to keep his room clean. These people naturally being fed up with city life do yearn to go back to their village and make contact with the people in the village. Why do you grudge them the few days holidays? If you do not respond to this call of help from the workers, then I can only say that something is radically wrong with this

Government of India. (Interruption.) Yes, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, soft spoken though he is, is often very strong with his claims. He had his own way as regards our earlier amendment. I want him to be a little malleable, to be a little soft so as to be willing to co-operate with us in pressing on the Government to extend the holiday to ten days. If you do not do this, you will be doing a great injustice to yourself as well as to the industrial workers. No doubt you are going about saying, "we have done everything for the workers, we have appointed a welfare officer, we have created a number of labour bureaus, we have created health insurance, we brought in a special Prof. Adarkar from some University to draft a report, we have recruited a number of labour leaders as special officers, we have done all these things because we are so much in love with your organisations that we have split you into two, we patronise one organisation at one time and another organisation at another time, and yet you come and ask us to extend the holidays. We are not prepared to extend the holidays, because this is war and your co-operation is needed for us and once the war is over, we assure you, we will shower special privileges upon you". Sir, the war is not going to continue for long. Are we going to make ourselves the enemies of the powerful employers? (Interruption.) I am not going to allow myself to be so easily upset. You not only rob me of my holidays, but you also want to rob me of my time for speaking. No, I shall not allow that. If war is over, we want to make friends with industrialists. No doubt the Government seem to think that if they make it ten days, then the industrialists will get angry. The Government want to take advantage of some plea or other and force us to agree for seven days only. After all we are only asking for three days more. We do not want to co-operate with the Government in cutting down our holidays from ten to seven. We are very serious about getting our rights attended to. We do not mind bargaining, if we cannot force you to agree to a reasonable proposal. Therefore I request the Honourable Member for Labour to accept this olive branch and say that he is going to agree to this amendment. If he is prepared to do that, I am prepared to stop speaking just now.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on with that sort of bargaining. He cannot go on repeating his arguments.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** This is a very small thing which the workers are asking for. The Government seem to be adamant. I have therefore got to warn the Government that industrial labour, though it may appear to be so today, is not going to be docile for ever. Industrial labour has had its hey-day in revolutionary activities in the past and it will certainly come to its own very soon after the war is over. Thanks to the political tempo in the world, the industrial labour will soon make its position felt in the world. You may delude yourself by thinking that by showing small mercies, you will be able to silence the workers for ever and thus prevent them from coming to their own and having their due rights agreed to by Government. Let the war be over, we will all be united again. You have created enough dissensions already on account of the war among the workers. We will unite again and fight on the proletarian front, on the peasant front and on the national front and in such a glorious manner that it will be necessary not only for you but for your successors also to do justice to workers for all time.

Sir, one word to my friends the industrialists. They are making huge profits, they have no risks to run at all since the war began. The Honourable the Finance Member has made so many good provisions for the industrialists. Depreciation costs, wear and tear, double accounting, earned income, average profits, insurance, no competition from England or the rest of the world, prices soaring like anything, no ceiling to be placed and then on the top of that the industrialists have got friends in this House to get up and support them and run down the Finance Member saying that he has not done this help or that help to industrialists and so on. All these the industrialists have enjoyed

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and on the top of that, they have enjoyed absence of strikes by industrial workers because of their own internal political differences as well as otherwise with the result that the workers have not been able to press their claims. Added to these, the Government also brought forward the Defence of India Rules and under this, they sent a large number of labour leaders, during the first two years of the war, to detention camps. The Government came to some sorts of back door agreements with a view to split the workers' organisation. At one time, the Government prop up one organisation and send its leader to a conference, at another time they patronise another organisation and send its leader to another conference. They give special joy rides in aeroplanes. In all these ways, the Government soften the labour leaders, they try to create dissensions among workers and prevent them from playing their proper role on the revolutionary front, on the proletarian front. With what result? We were told the other day that a particular Labour Federation was paid Rs. 13,000 a month. It is whispered in my ears that the amount was Rs. 25,000. We are not given true facts. We are kept completely in the dark about the doings of the Government. The Government have become *purdanashin* in this way. You have closed all avenues for industrial labour to better itself. This is how they have masqueraded in this country and that

is my charge against the industrialists. Therefore I make this appeal to the industrialists themselves. Let them come forward with their olive branch and say, "We do not know what is going to happen in post-war times; quite possible there is going to be trouble for us also; there will be a slump in prices and a slump in demands for our goods; there will be competition from abroad; we will need protection from the State; the House will not be willing to give us protection unless we look after our labour and therefore we are prepared also to co-operate with you and support your amendment". Are they prepared to do so? I do not know; no response comes from them. It is not as if the industrialists are not represented in this House. There are quite a number of them here. But they are keeping mum. Why? Because they know their own interests.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** We are charmed by your eloquence!

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The pity is that in spite of the charm it does not seem to be yielding any results. I only want that from seven days it should be raised to ten days. The industrialists are not prepared to make any response. Therefore I cannot appreciate the point of view of either the Government or the industrialists, and so my duty is to stand by this amendment and insist that Government as well as the industrialists should behave in a more liberal fashion towards industrial workers than they have done.

#### STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed** (Leader of the House): Sir, we have a large volume of outstanding business and I must ask you to direct the House to sit for the transaction of official business on Friday the 6th April and daily from Monday the 9th to Thursday the 12th April inclusive. I should add that the possibility of further sittings being found necessary cannot be excluded.

The list of business for Monday and Tuesday next week will be circulated this evening. The first item will be the consideration of the Income-tax Amendment Bill as reported by the Select Committee and the list will include the items outstanding from today's list and motions for the consideration and passing of the Indian Army and Indian Air Force Amendment Bills. There will also be a Resolution to be moved in accordance with the express desire of the House for the amendment of the existing Roads Resolution so as to admit of the increase to eight of the number of Members of the Assembly to be elected to the Standing Committee on Roads, and possibly a supplementary demand arising out of the adoption of the cut motion with reference to co-ordination of road and rail transport.

Wednesday and Thursday next week are non-official days.

For Friday the 6th April and the days from Monday the 9th to Thursday the 12th April there will be a combined list of business on which the first item will be a motion for reference of the Banking Bill to a Select Committee. It will depend on the progress made on Monday and Tuesday next whether this motion will be followed immediately by a motion for the consideration of the Insurance Bill as reported by the Select Committee or whether miscellaneous items of business outstanding from Monday and Tuesday next will be interpolated.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I suggest that the Bill at present under discussion should be finished first on Monday. It will not take more than an hour or two.

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed**: No, not at this rate. The Income-tax Bill must be finished first.

**Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar** (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I support the request of Mr. Joshi that this Bill should be disposed of first.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani** (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, may I know whether any more days will be given for non-official business?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed**: No, Sir.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I direct that the House shall sit on 6th April for official business and then daily from Monday the 9th to Thursday the 12th April inclusive.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 2nd April, 1945.