

9th February 1945

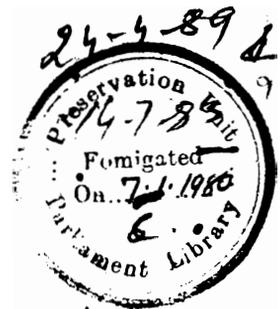
THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES  
Official Report

Volume I, 1945

*(8th February to 23rd February, 1945)*

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TWENTY-SECOND SESSION  
OF THE  
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1945



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 9th February, 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.

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

**35. \*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to a contribution by the United Press, published in the *Sind Observer* of the 17th December, 1944, under the caption "Roy-Mehta Mud Slinging over Rs. 13,000" in which Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, M.L.A., now an officer in the Government of India, has said that he has with him an official correspondence on the aforesaid subject showing that the name of the Labour Federation has been used behind the back, over the head and without the knowledge of either its President or its Executive Council and further Rs. 13,000 per month were obtained by Mr. Roy for himself to be used as he liked?

(b) In view of the above information, will the Honourable Member be pleased to give information with regard to this public money as to whom it was given and for what purpose, and how it was used, and did Mr. Roy himself use the money as he liked, or did he make use of it for his own purposes or divide it with Mr. Jamnadas Mehta?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) Yes, by the Honourable Member himself.

(b) I would invite attention to my reply given to the Honourable Member's question No. 31 on the 2nd November 1944.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** The Honourable Member has not given specific replies to my questions. I want to know, with regard to part (b), whether what Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has said in that article is correct, or what the Honourable Member said last time on this question was correct? Is this money for Mr. Jamnadas, is it for Mr. Roy, or is it for both?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I have nothing to add to the reply that I have given.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** But I want the Honourable Member to reply to my questions.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has given the reply.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I know that the Honourable Member is feeling shy over this question because if he makes a statement it would go against his own answers. I submit that the Honourable Member should reply to my questions otherwise there will be an adjournment motion on this subject.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I think the House has got a right to know whether it is a personal gratuity or it is for the benefit of the Federation.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** It is given to the Federation.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know whether the Government has satisfied themselves that it has been entered in the accounts of the Federation and it has been spent through the Federation?

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

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know whether the Government are contemplating an increased amount being given?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** No.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know for what period this has been sanctioned for the present?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** It is sanctioned for a year.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know when it ends?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** When the budget ends.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** The Honourable Member said the other day that audited copies of accounts will be placed on the table of the House. Has he done so?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** They have not been received as yet.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Has the Honourable Member seen the details of this account?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I understand that they are seen by a special officer who has been appointed by Government in this behalf.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** From those accounts that the Honourable Member has seen already, is it or is it not clear that this money has been utilized by Mr. Roy for his own purposes?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I think that is not the correct statement.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Then which is the correct statement?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** It has been spent for the purposes for which it has been granted.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** To whom was the money handed over—to Mr. Roy, to Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, or to the Secretary of the Federation?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** It is received by the Secretary of the Federation.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** No money has been received by the Federation from the Government. The name of the Federation has been used behind the back, over the head and without the knowledge of either its Executive Committee or its President. The Government have been cheated. It is without the knowledge of the Federation.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** It is not my information.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Government have been cheated.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Government take any action now that the Honourable Member has been told that Government has been cheated?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Government does not believe that it has been cheated

#### PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN SIND

**36. \*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the present policy of procurement, distribution and export of food in and outside India?

(b) What are the definite orders and directions of the Government of India given specifically to the Government of Sind for procurement and distribution in Sind?

(c) Is any Central machinery adopted for the above purposes in Sind or has it been left to the Provincial Government of Sind to adopt one?

(d) Are the two syndicates that were working previously for procurement and distribution of food, in existence or have been abolished? If the latter, what arrangements are now going on for the above purposes?

(e) Does the Government of Sind make any regular monthly or other reports to the Central Government regarding the working of the aforesaid machinery in Sind? If so, will Government place on the table the last report either made by the Government of Sind or called for from the Government of Sind?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) A Memorandum covering the matters, mentioned by the Honourable Member has been placed on the table of the House. The attention of the Honourable Member is also invited to the progress report on the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, which was laid on the table of the House during the last Session.

(b) No specific orders have been given in this respect but the Provincial Government were directed in 1943 not to amend or cancel their orders fixing the maximum prices of foodgrains in Sind, without the previous approval of the Central Government.

(c) There is no central machinery for procurement and distribution of food-grains in Sind.

(d) The Wheat Syndicate is still in existence. The other Syndicate, *viz.*, Foodgrains Exporters Syndicate, has been abolished, and replaced by the "Sind Purchase Board".

(e) The Government of Sind, and all other Governments send periodical reports to the Food Department on all matters concerning their food administrations. No special report is called for from the Government of Sind.

#### DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

##### MEMORANDUM ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA AND DEVELOPMENTS OF FOOD POLICY UP TO 2ND FEBRUARY, 1945

During the past year there has been a steady improvement in the food situation throughout the country. Conditions of acute shortage experienced in the previous year have ceased to exist. The enforcement of Government's policy with regard to statutory control of prices, procurement by Government or Government controlled agencies and rationing has yielded good results. Progress has also been made towards stabilising market prices, under ceiling-statutory controls at levels which will ease the burden on the consumer and at the same time will provide an incentive to the producer to maintain and increase production. In the case of certain specific crops, we have announced the level at which we are prepared to buy all grain offered in the principal assembling markets in the main producing areas, should prices fall. We have also tried to reduce undue disparities between the levels of prices prevailing for the same grain and class of grain in different areas. The progress which has already been achieved in this direction has been brought about by the statutory control of prices supported by the importation of foodgrains from abroad and the planned movement of internal stocks to the areas where they are required. Distribution under Government control to the consumer is being increasingly done through rationing in urban areas and in some cases in rural areas also.

Steady progress has also been made towards monopoly procurement of foodgrains by Government, which has already been adopted by certain provinces and States. The principle of monopoly procurement has been fully discussed and approved at the 5th All-India Food Conference of official representatives of Governments in the light of an examination of existing foodgrains monopolies conducted by Food Department.

##### A.—Summary of Crop Prospects

*Kharif.*—The monsoon was late in Assam, Bengal, Orissa, the U. P., the C. P., Madras and Bombay, and delayed sowings in some parts of these provinces. It, broke strongly in July in the U. P., the C. P. and Bombay, but continued uneven in Bengal and Madras, and was light in Assam. Its incidence was irregular in Madras. Districts in the north-east of that province received more rain than usual, while Malabar did not receive any rainfall until the middle of July. Rainfall in Travancore and Cochin was poor, being about 50 per cent. of the normal.

In Bombay and the C. P. excessive and continuous rain in July retarded sowing and damaged the jowar and bajri crops and necessitated re-sowing in some of the districts. In the rest of the country it was beneficial to the crops. In August there was a break affecting transplantation in Assam, parts of Bengal and the U. P. In the C. P. and Bombay, it continued strong and led to floods in some districts.

Sind experienced unusually heavy rainfall in August, and some damage was done to the crops and stored grain.

The weather was generally favourable in September and jowar and bajra crops recovered, in the C. P., the U. P. and Bombay. In North-West India the rains were generally well distributed and did not have any adverse effect on crops.

On the whole, the monsoon was favourable for the rice crop, except in Assam, parts of Bengal and the U. P. The millets crop was damaged in the C. P., Bombay, the Western India States and the Central India States by excessive rain in July. Travancore, Cochin and parts of Madras suffered from scanty rainfall and the rice crops there have been below average.

*Rabi.*—*Rabi* crops all over the country are reported to be doing well. Widespread rainfall during January has proved beneficial to the standing crops. If nothing untoward happens during the next two months, a good *Rabi* harvest will be reaped all over the country.

##### B.—Progress of the Basic Plan.

Two Basic Plans are now in operation for the controlled distribution of the major food-grains from surplus areas to deficit areas. One deals with the *Kharif* grains—rice, millets and maize—and the other with the *Rabi* grains—wheat and barley. The *Kharif* Plan is operative from November 1944, to October 1945; while the *Rabi* Plan is operative from May 1944 to April 1945. The two Plans taken together attempt the distribution of about 3.2 million tons of foodgrains including about 0.4 million tons arrears from the preceding year's Plans, from surplus to deficit areas, and to the Defence Services. Against the above combined total movement target of 3.2 million tons, about 1.4 million tons have been de-patched

up to 4th January 1945. The total quantity of foodgrains despatched to each of the principal deficit areas up to 4th January 1945 is given below :—

Area	Quantity
Bangal	173,700 tons
Bombay	311,200 "
Madras	132,100 "
Travancore/Cochin	78,600 "
W. I. States and Baroda	14,100 "

The table below gives the total export quotas and the total despatches from surplus areas (including Overseas imports) to the deficit areas :—

(In 000 tons)

Foodgrains	Total quotas	Despatches up to 4-1-45 (for Kharif grains from 1-11-44 & Rabi grains from 1-5-44)	Percentage of Despatches to quotas
Rice . . . . .	944	181	19
Millets . . . . .	333	40	12
Maize . . . . .	84	3	4
Wheat . . . . .	1,757	1,162	66
Barley . . . . .	99	28	28
Total . . . . .	3,217	1,414	44

The wheat quota given above includes 750,000 tons of wheat from Overseas Imports (for April—December 1944).

On the basis of the present estimates the quotas for both the Kharif and Rabi grains are likely to be completed within the respective crop years.

2. *Rabi Plan 1944-45* :—

(a) *Wheat*.—The Plan started with the distribution of a declared surplus of 1,018,000 tons wheat of which 2,50,000 tons was to arrive from Overseas. As the Plan progressed additional wheat surpluses aggregating 94,483 tons were offered by surplus areas, while the quantity of wheat from Overseas promised by His Majesty's Government was raised to 750,000 tons of which receipts upto 20th January 1945 total 544,230 tons.

(b) *Gram*.—Under the Rabi Plan 1944-45, a surplus of 281,500 tons gram was originally offered by surplus areas for distribution. Subsequent to the compilation of the Plan, additional surpluses declared by supplying areas together with quantities surrendered by deficit areas led to an accumulation of unallotted stocks aggregating 110,000 tons in producing areas. As gram cannot be used to any large extent to offset cereal deficit, the demand from the deficit areas was limited. The matter was placed before the Standing Food Advisory Committee of the Central Legislature at its meeting on the 9th September 1944. On their recommendation and with the approval of the provinces and states, it was decided to take gram movements off the Basic Plan. With effect from 1st November 1944, gram has been allowed to move through private trade on permits issued by the supplying administrations under high transport priority.

(c) *Barley*.—Since the issue of the Rabi Plan 1944-45 in May last, an additional surplus of 49,000 tons barley has been offered to the Food Department for controlled distribution to deficit areas raising the total surplus to 99,000 tons.

3. *Kharif Plan 1944-45*.—The total rice and millets surpluses offered to the Food Department by the Provinces and States for 1944-45, at the commencement of the Kharif Plan amounted to 684,000 tons and 260,000 tons respectively, while the declared deficits of rice and millets amounted to 3,109,000 tons and 1,050,000 tons respectively. Owing to the delay in the break of the monsoon and the Kharif sowings this year, the estimates of crop surpluses and deficit were based on very inadequate and approximate data. The estimates also did not include Rabi jowar production which is considerable in Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad and the Bombay States. The surpluses and deficits were as the whole estimated on a conservative basis. This has been borne out by the fact that since the issue of the Plan in November last the following further surpluses have been offered by the main surplus areas :—

(In tons)

Grain	Original Surplus	Additional Surplus	Surplus as revised up to date (25-1-45)
Rice . . . . .	684,000	60,000	744,000
Millets . . . . .	215,000	90,000	305,000

Even with additional rice and millets surpluses, the overall rice and millets position this year as compared with the preceding year is not satisfactory. In order to partially offset the rice and millets deficits, compensatory additional wheat allotments from Overseas Imports have been made to the deficit areas.

Thanks to the bumper rice harvest of 1943-44 and the measures for procurement and distribution undertaken by the Provincial and the Central Governments, the emergency conditions which called for a special measure of assistance for Bengal during 1944, have been brought under control.

4. *Basic Plan for Pulses.*—Pulses have also been brought under controlled distribution, and a Basic Plan for pulses was formulated for the first time in May 1944. At the time of the formulation of the Plan, the supplying areas had offered about 292,000 tons of pulses as against a declared deficit of about 470,000 tons. Since the issue of the Plan about 40,000 tons additional pulses have been offered by the surplus areas. The Kharif Pulses Plan for 1944-45 is now under formulation.

C.—*Price Control*

After careful consideration of the recommendations of the Price Advisory Committee which met on the 17th August and again on the 9th October 1944 to consider Kharif Prices the Government of India came to the following decisions :—

(i) that the existing statutory maxima for rice, bajra and jowar in different Provinces (except the Eastern Region, viz., Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and the Eastern States) should continue unchanged for the next Kharif Year;

(ii) that no all-India maximum for maize should be announced;

(iii) that the fixation of maximum prices for the rabi crops be postponed to the harvest time when fuller data about the size of the crop would be available;

(iv) in view of the numerous varieties and differences in quality in different producing areas, it was considered impracticable to fix the prices of pulses on an all-India basis. Provinces and States have therefore, been approached through the Regional Food Commissioners to see that prices are maintained at reasonable levels having regard to the prevailing prices of cereals in the areas concerned.

The next meeting of the Price Advisory Committee will be held on the 23rd and 24th March 1945, to consider the levels at which prices of rabi grains should be fixed.

2. Prices in the Eastern Region were considered, at a Conference convened by the Regional Food Commissioner, Eastern Region at Calcutta on the 9th November 1944, attended by representatives of the various units of the Region. The following conclusions were arrived at :

(i) that the statutory maximum price of rice in Bihar, Orissa and Eastern States be reduced as under :

	From	To
	Rs. A P.	Rs. A. P.
<i>Bihar</i>		
Rice (medium)	12 0 0	11 0 0
(coarse)	11 0 0	10 0 0
<i>Orissa</i>		
Rice (common)	9 0 0	7 12 0
(fine)	10 0 0	9 12 0
	to 11 0 0	
<i>Eastern States</i>		
Rice (hand pounded coarse)	10 8 0	10 0 0
(milled coarse)	11 8 0	11 0 0
(milled medium)	12 0 0	11 8 0

(ii) that statutory maximum prices in Bengal should continue unchanged till fuller information about the new crop was available.

The Government of India approved the recommendations of the Conference.

In Bihar the statutory maximum price of rice was further reduced with effect from the 15th January 1945 as below :

Rice (medium)—Rs. 10-0-0.

Rice (coarse)—Rs. 9-0-0.

(iii) Small reduction in rice and paddy prices proposed by the Assam Government were also approved.

3. From the trend in prices at the close of 1944, it was felt that it might, before long, be necessary for the Government of India to implement their undertaking to buy all wheat, jowar and bajra offered in the assembling markets in the main producing areas at Rs. 7-8-0, Rs. 6-0-0 and Rs. 5-8-0 per maund respectively. Instructions were, therefore, issued to the Provincial Governments concerned regarding the procedure to be followed in implementing this guarantee. Similar instructions were issued to the States also to implement the undertaking to buy jowar and bajra at Rs. 5-0-0 and Rs. 5-8-0 per maund respectively.

4. In the course of the Food Debate in the Assembly at its last session, the question of subsidy was raised by several members and the representatives of the Food Department stated in reply that this question was under the active examination of the Department and that it may have to be referred to an Inter-Departmental Committee for report. The Food Department has, therefore, decided to set up an Inter-Departmental Committee as below :

*Chairman.*—Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India.

*Members.*—

(1) Sir Pheroze Kharegat, E. H. & L. Department.

(2) Mr. Narahari Rao, Finance Department.

(3) Mr. D. S. Joshi, Labour Department.

(4) Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Food Department.

The terms of reference are as below :

“To examine in all its bearings, financial, administrative and social, the principle of subsidy in the matter of both distribution and production of foodgrains and other foodstuffs, whether with a view to bringing down the cost of living or raising the standard of living or aiding in the solution of the price problem in agriculture, and to make recommendations.”

#### D.—Rationing

##### (A) Progress of Rationing.

1. There are now 516 towns and municipal areas wholly or partly rationed or to be shortly rationed for food in India, representing a total population of approximately 50 million people. Thus rationing has been extended to nearly 56 towns since the last report was presented in November 1944.

2. Some of the important developments during this period are :—

(i) Madras has introduced district-wide rationing in Malabar in all the Taluks except Wynad, for the rationing of which steps have already been taken.

(ii) Rationing was introduced in Peshawar on 22nd October 1944, and is reported to be working smoothly. Some local papers have suggested its extension to other towns.

(iii) In the Punjab it has been decided to introduce rationing in Simla.

##### (B) Nutrition and use of substitute Grains for Rice

Governments in the southern parts of the country are doing their best to popularise the so-called ‘coarse grains’ in the peoples’ diet in order to make it more balanced and not one which almost entirely consists of carbohydrates in rice.

The Cochin State have started a scheme under which free meals consisting chiefly of bajra preparations are served to school children suffering from mal-nutrition. The Cochin State have also organised the development of subsidised civic restaurants where meals made out of unfamiliar grains like wheat and millets are served at cheap rates. The Travancore State is subsidising the sale of wheat to the extent of Rs. 16 lacs per annum. The Madras Government have declared wheat as a rationed article in almost all the rationed areas and have arranged free cooking demonstrations at different child welfare centres in Madras City. In C. & M. Station Bangalore, the prices of foodgrains are subsidised to bring them in level with the prices in Bangalore City. In Bombay the prices of Sort II rice and millets are subsidised.

In order to secure expert advice on nutrition, some of the Provincial and State Governments have enlisted Nutrition specialists while others are making use of experts already available in those areas.

In view of the growing importance of Nutrition it has been decided to present in simple language the application of scientific research in all matters connected with protective foods by bringing out a monthly bulletin entitled “NUTRITION”. The first issue is already out and has been widely distributed. A ‘Note on Food and Nutrition Policy in India’ by Dr. Aykroyd has been published and circulated. The brochure entitled ‘Feeding the Worker-Canteens in Industry’ contains a lot of information on nutrition, diet sheets, menus of Indian dishes, etc.

#### E.—Storage

There is and always has been in India, considerable waste of food owing to inefficient storage. It is now more than ever necessary to prevent this waste; and because governments have had to intervene and take over from the trade the responsibility for the procurement and distribution of food on a vast scale, their attention has been directed, on the initiative of the Central Government, to improving methods of storage and inspection. In the Food Department the nucleus of a Storage Directorate has been set up, whose officers have toured in most parts of India, and have been able to give technical advice on various aspects of the problem. The Directorate is being expanded: a programme has been drawn up for the construction of new storage godowns or the improvement of existing godowns, both to contain grain imported from overseas and grain procured in surplus areas and waiting transport to deficit areas. In the latter case the Government of India propose to share the cost of new construction with local governments.

#### F.—Sugar and Salt

*Sugar.*—The total production of sugar in the last season ending on the 30th November, 1944, amounted to 12,24,106 tons, out of which 93.5 per cent. has moved upto the 15th January, 1945, and the balance is with the factories which is also being moved during the current year. The production during the first six weeks of current season upto 15th

January 1945, amounted to 2,75,641 tons out of which 43,380 tons, i.e., 15.7 per cent. has moved.

The final position regarding production will not be known until the end of March. In the meantime, a provisional allotment of sugar (including Khandisari) amounting to 9,58,100 tons to various Provinces and States for the year 1944-45, has been made on the basis of a production of one million tons.

Out of the proceeds of the Temporary Excise Duty on sugar levied under the Ordinances issued in 1943 and 1944—about Rs. 60 lakhs realised in 1943-44, and 1 crore and 35 lakhs estimated for the year 1944-45—a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been kept in reserve to compensate the sugar factories in case sugar prices are lowered. The balance of the fund has been placed at the disposal of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee who are being asked to draw up a five-year plan of development of Sugar Industry and submit it to the Government of India for approval before putting it into operation.

With a view to secure maximum sugar production during the current season and to encourage maintenance of adequate area under cane cultivation for the next season, the Central Government have agreed with the proposal of the United Provinces and Bihar Governments to drop the compulsory deduction for deferred payment from cane price and to pay full cane price in cash to the producers.

*Gur.*—It has been decided to allow exports through Indian traders of 5,000 and 3,500 tons of gur to Iran and Ceylon respectively during the year 1944-45.

#### G.—*Procurement*

The Report of the Special Officer deputed to survey the various Government monopoly schemes already operating was considered at the Fifth All-India Food Conference held on the 29th January to 2nd February. The resolution passed by the Conference on the subject is attached.

#### H.—*Exports and Imports*

The Government of India, after consultation with His Majesty's Government and with the approval of the Standing Advisory Committee of the Central Legislature decided to permit the export of 500 tons of foodgrains to the Hedjaz as a free gift from Indian Muslims for relief of distress.

Out of 11,00,000 tons of foodgrains promised by His Majesty's Government for the period October 1943, to December 1944, 904,724 tons have already been received and the balance is on the way. Allocations for the first quarter of 1945 and the Rabi year 1945-46 are under consideration.

#### I.—*Foodgrains Control Order*

In view of the decisions already reported to the Legislature that the Provincial Governments should frame their own Foodgrains Control Orders in the light of their own requirements and to suit local conditions but based on the existing Order, the Foodgrains Control Order, 1942, has with the concurrence of the Government of India, ceased to be in force in N.-W. F. P., Baluchistan, the Punjab, Assam, Madras and Coorg, where local orders have come into force simultaneously.

#### J.—*Dehydrated Potatoes & Onions*

19 factories have been selected from the existing factories in India to be remodelled for the production of dehydrated potatoes and onions for supply to the Defence Services during 1945. Two of the factories selected are Government factories operated by the U. P. Government. The remaining 17 factories are operated by contractors, with whom contracts have been negotiated in quantities appropriate to keep them working for seven months in the year, on the produce of Government growing schemes and surplus areas. Care was taken that these factories do not draw on supplies, essential for civilian consumption.

The remodelling has already been completed in three of the nineteen factories and the majority of them will come into production during this month.

#### K.—*Dehydrated Meat*

At present the following six meat dehydration factories with a total capacity of 5 tons per day are working :—

1. Nowshera . . . . .	1 ton per day.
2. Poona . . . . .	1 ton per day.
3. Patna . . . . .	1 ton per day.
4. Madras . . . . .	1 ton per day.
5. Agra . . . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$ ton per day.
6. Delhi . . . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$ ton per day.

About four tons of dehydrated meat is being produced daily at these factories. Another factory at Anantapur is under construction.

Construction of two factories (one at Ranipet and the other at Amritsar) with one ton per day capacity, each for the manufacture of pre-cooked dehydrated minned mutton and meat, respectively has been taken in hand. Plant and machinery for these factories ordered from the United Kingdom is expected to arrive in this country shortly.

L.—*Fruit Canning Factory, Nasarpur*

The canning plant has been in production during this fruit season. In spite of the fact, that the factory was newly opened and the adverse weather condition reduced the quantity and quality of fruit, the factory was able to produce about 40 tons of canned pears and 46 tons of plums.

We are now arranging to produce 1350 tons of canned fruit and 600 tons of canned tomatoes, from this plant during 1945.

Experiments are also being made, to establish whether canned potatoes can also be produced, and if the results are satisfactory, further progress in this line will be made.

M.—*Deputation of Dr. B. C. Guha and Mr. M. L. Khanna*

The question of current improvement and future development in industries processing foodstuffs has received constant attention.

Dr. B. C. Guha, D.Sc., Ph.D., Chief Technical Adviser and Mr. M. L. Khanna, B.Sc. (Engr.), Technical Adviser have been sent on deputation to the United Kingdom for a period of three months to investigate modern methods of food technology with special reference to dehydration of foodstuffs required for the Defence Services, including modern methods of packing.

Dr. Guha at the conclusion of his deputation in the United Kingdom will proceed to the United States of America along with Mr. Khanna to study fruit dehydration and quick freeze-process, as it is considered that their experience in this line would be of considerable value to India on their return.

N.—*Establishment of Headquarters Laboratory of the Department of Food*

It has been recognised for sometime past that it is essential to have a headquarters Laboratory of the Department of Food, where particular samples could be kept and reconstruction and storage tests could be performed under the direct supervision of the Technical staff. A Laboratory has consequently been set up and is working under the direct supervision of the Chief Technical Adviser who is assisted in his work by a Technical Adviser (Research), and two Chemists.

O.—*Establishment of a Technical Panel in the Department of Food*

It has been felt that in the various industries engaged on the production of processed foodstuffs for the Defence Services, a stage has now been reached when technical advice on the highest level should be readily and constantly available for current improvement and future development of the undertakings. This advice should comprehend not merely scientific but also nutritional, hygienic and agricultural aspects. It is accordingly considered necessary to establish a group of scientists as a technical panel to whom problems of improvement and development can be referred by the Chief Technical Adviser as and when he thinks collaborated opinion necessary. Action regarding the establishment of the Technical panel with Sir S. S. Bhatnagar as Chairman, eleven scientists as members and the Chief Technical Adviser as Secretary, is in train.

Throughout, the aim has been to improve the quality of processed foodstuffs, so that they satisfy more completely the requirements of Defence at present and the possible requirements of the civilian market when the Defence demand should be reduced in the future.

The possibility of establishing a factory manufacturing 3,000 tons of food yeast is being examined. An Engineer with technical qualifications has been placed on special duty to report within three months on the prospects of the proposed factory.

P.—*Vanaspati Industry*

An Inter-departmental Conference was held in September to discuss the future of the Industry and the possibilities of expansion. It was provisionally agreed that in order to meet the increasing demand the Industry should be rendered all the necessary assistance to increase its capacity by about 100,000 tons. 85 applications for assistance to import the required machinery from the existing as well as new parties have been received.

It has been decided to control the Vanaspati Industry on the same lines as Sugar, and an Advisory Committee consisting of the representatives of the industry has been elected. The Government of India have also decided to assist in the expansion and maintenance of the Oil Crushing Industry and to assist in the import of oil Expellers.

Q.—*Command Co-ordination Committees for Foodstuffs*

As the result of representations from certain Provincial Governments, the Government of India in the War Department requested all Provincial Governments and Administrations on 15th February 1944, to set up Purchase Co-ordination Committees for each Army Command for purposes of eliminating uncontrolled and unco-ordinated purchases of such items as fresh meat, fish, vegetables, fowls, eggs, etc., for civilian as well as military consumption.

These Co-ordination Committees were required to consider the quality, quantity, price and sources of supplies with the main objects of—

- (a) checking price inflation and competitive buying,
- (b) determining the sources of supply which should be tapped,
- (c) regulating consumption of supplies in such a manner as : (i) to protect animal breeding stocks, cows in milk and working bullocks used for agricultural and transport purposes, and (ii) to avoid depletion of seed requirements; and
- (d) taking suitable action to make good the deficit in supply.

Co-ordination Committees have been set up in all Commands with ancillary Sub-Committees in certain areas.

A Central Committee has also been constituted at New Delhi to co-ordinate the activities of the several Committees in the Commands of which the Secretary of the War Department is the Chairman.

The following indicates briefly the work and achievements of these bodies to date with particular reference to the four objects mentioned above.

On the military side, Deputy Assistant Directors of Local Purchase in all Commands, are now required to work in close contact with the civil authorities in regard to securing accurate information about the economic availabilities in their Districts. Each D. A. D. L. P. is also the sole authority for placing contracts for the military. The Food Department's contracts for goats, sheep and vegetables for dehydration factories will be concluded in consultation with the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee acting on information from D. A. Ds. L. P.

The Committees have been emphasizing the need for surveys of resources. The U. P. and Madras Governments have taken measures to achieve this and it is expected that good progress in this direction has already been made in other Provinces as well; but the collection of complete statistics is expected to take time. In the meanwhile in the Central Command particularly the D. A. Ds. L. P. are collecting data to allow of the allocation and distribution of resources equitably.

The formation of these Committees has given an impetus to the execution of production plans undertaken by the Military as well as the Provincial Governments. The Central Command Plan includes the setting up of 15 mass production poultry farms estimated to produce 3½ lakhs of table birds a year. Two egg production farms have been planned which will produce one lakh eggs a year; in addition, there are about 50 military units likely to produce another five lakhs eggs a year. It is proposed to set up 17 pork production farms estimated to produce eight lakh lbs. of pork a year. Fresh vegetables weighing 16,000 maunds were handed over by military units to the R.I.A.S.C. during the 3 months March to May 1944. A vegetable farm of 500 acres is being established near Delhi. Similar production schemes have been put into operation in other units.

The deliberations of these Committees have also led to the Army doing its best to supplement local supplies by imports, e.g., frozen meat, tinned fish and dehydrated meat and vegetables. These measures are calculated to release more meat and vegetables for civilian consumption.

#### R.—Fifth All-India Food Conference

The fifth All-India Food Conference was held in New Delhi on the 29th January to 2nd February. It was attended by official representatives of the Provincial and State Governments. Problems relating to monopoly procurement, rationing, nutrition, production and distribution of fresh foods, movement and the Grow More Food Campaign were discussed. Copies of the resolutions passed by the Conference on these subjects are attached.

#### DEPARTMENT OF FOOD.

Resolutions passed at the Fifth All-India Food Conference on subjects relating to Food Department.

##### I. (Procurement)

It is recommended that :

The results so far obtained in the working of monopoly procurement systems justify their further study, and their development so far as the circumstances of each Province and State permit.

Where monopoly procurement is in operation in respect of any particular grain, Government should, in the interest of producers, accept all such grain as is offered, subject to considerations of quality. Acceptance should be at notified centres, at the appropriate stages of the marketing process, and at prices fixed in accordance with the all-India policy after consultation, wherever necessary, with the Central Government.

The development of monopoly procurement should be in the direction of the acquisition by Government of grain offered for sale voluntarily. Nevertheless, in those areas where it is deemed advisable, monopoly procurement may be extended by :

(1) a compulsory levy and the acquisition, in addition, of any balance that any producer may desire to sell,  
or (2) assessment of the surpluses of individual producers and the compulsory acquisition of such surpluses.

The Conference in making this recommendation recognises that the financial consequences of implementing the policy may necessitate assistance to the Provinces by the Central Government.

##### II. (Rationing)

It is resolved that :

The present burden of an over-all deficiency of foodgrains should be shared evenly by all parts of the country. With that object in view all Governments accept the following principles :—

(i) Full urban rationing should be introduced and extended in accordance with Recommendation 46 of the Foodgrains Policy Committee.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Extra provision should be made for heavy manual workers by means of a supplementary ration and in the form of cooked foods through industrial canteens.

(iv) In all rationing schemes the definition of a child should be from the date of birth to the age of 8.

### III. (Nutrition)

It is resolved that :

(1) It is essential to improve the diet of the people, and to this end all Governments will undertake an examination of diets in their area, to determine in what respects they are defective and how the defects can best be made good. They will examine especially measures required to provide sufficient milk and other protective foods to the vulnerable section of the community.

(2) The introduction and popularisation of foodstuffs which should be added to the diet, or must be substituted for those in short supply, require persistent publicity and active encouragement, including arrangements for practical demonstrations of the preparation of unaccustomed foods.

(3) Use should be made of expert nutritional advice in guiding the policy of Central and Provincial food administrations.

(4) Large employers of labour should be given every encouragement by governments to provide canteens for the supply of wholesome cooked food to their labour.

### IV. (Fresh foods and other necessary Commodities)

It is resolved that :

1. All Governments should furnish by the 1st of May, 1945, to the Government of India, and to the appropriate command Co-ordination Committees, in respect of eggs, poultry, fish, milch cattle, milk and milk products, goats, sheep, livestock, potatoes, seed potatoes, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, cooking oil and oil seeds, oil cake, fuel (wood and charcoal), the best possible estimate of :—

(i) Local production,

(ii) Target for increased local production attainable in 12 months,

(iii) Local requirements (a) Civil; (b) Military (including dehydrating factories).

(iv) Import requirements,

(v) Normal sources of supply,

(vi) Export surpluses,

(vii) Normal export markets,

(viii) Prices at main consuming and producing centres.

2. All Governments should also specify requirements, the present lack of which affects (a) production, (b) distribution of commodities referred to in (i), including minimum desirable provision of such requirements, (a) in the next 12 months, (b) in the next 3 years.

3. All Governments will examine the possibility of forming organised bodies of (a) producers, (b) traders, in respect of the commodities in (1), with a view to employing them as agents for planned and controlled procurement and distribution.

4. The Government of India, on receipt of the information to be supplied under (1) above, will examine how best they can afford all possible assistance to governments to increase production, ensure supplies and control distribution of any of these commodities.

### V. (Movement)

It is resolved that :

(1) The movement of foodgrains ought to proceed smoothly so far as possible throughout the year. To this end the Central Government undertake, in respect of grains subject to the Basic Plan, to plan a constant movement throughout the year, so that the transport authorities may programme a regular supply of wagons. Provincial and State Governments for their part undertake, to the best of their ability in the case of surplus areas, to see that procurement keeps pace with the transport available and to provide storage for the balance; and, in the case of receiving areas, to send despatch instructions and make arrangements for inspection, so that the programme can be punctually observed.

(2) In the case of other foodgrains the Central Government should undertake :—

(a) To prepare a similar movement programme, with the same priorities as for foodgrains in (1) above, to supply deficiencies declared by Governments out of surpluses declared by Governments.

(b) To co-ordinate the disposal of all other surpluses by means of authorised and assisted trade movements.

*Resolutions passed at the 5th All-India Food Conference on subjects relating to E. H. & L. Department*

#### *Resolution No. I.*

It is resolved that :

The campaign for growing more food should be continued with undiminished vigour in all areas, both surplus and deficit.

#### *Resolution No. II.*

Steps should be taken to ensure a market (or have an assured market) for food grains at fair prices wherever this is necessary to safeguard the interests of cultivator and ensure the success of the grow more food campaign. This may be done by the establishment of an adequate number of purchasing centres for the buying of the foodgrains offered at such centres at the prices fixed or otherwise.

*Resolution No. III.*

It is resolved that :

Special attention should be paid to increasing the production of protective foods such as vegetables and fruits, milk, eggs and fish and for this purpose Provinces and States should consider the desirability of :—

(1) encouraging the growing of vegetables in school gardens and villages for local consumption;

(2) appointing a Milk Development Officer in order to increase milk production in each province and, major State and taking steps to produce and provide adequate fodder and concentrates;

(3) setting up (a) large dairy farms or encouraging their establishment by private individuals or organisations in suitable areas by the grant of land and subsidies, (b) making proper arrangements for the salvage of dry city cows, and (c) regulating the inter-provincial movements of cattle from one area to another by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and states concerned;

(4) Setting up poultry farms at suitable centres for the supply of cockerels to villages and providing them with incubators, and wire fencing and other facilities;

(5) encouraging (a) fish culture, (b) stocking of tanks with fingerlings, (c) supplying the requirements of fishermen in respect of fishing tackle and (d) providing trawlers, launches, ice and cold storage facilities for developing deep sea fishing.

*Resolution No. IV.*

It is resolved that :

(a) the production of groundnuts in lieu of non-food crops should be encouraged in areas where suitable;

(b) Inter-provincial movements of vegetable oils should be regulated by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and states concerned;

(c) exports from India should as far as possible be in the form of oil rather than that of oil seeds, and for this purpose additional crushing plant should be set up for crushing the whole of the oil seeds produced.

*Resolution No. V.*

It is resolved that :

Each province and major state should consider the desirability of appointing a Fertiliser Controller to conserve and promote its manurial resources by encouraging composting, extending the practice of green manuring, utilisation of bones and arranging for the equitable distribution at controlled prices of fertilisers, of the town waste and oilcakes produced in the area concerned bearing in mind the needs of cattle for concentrates.

Inter-provincial movements should be regulated by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and states concerned.

*Resolution No. VI.*

It is resolved that :

(a) Facilities should be provided by the Central Government, where necessary, for the supply of :—

(i) building materials for seed and manure depots,

(ii) iron and steel for agricultural implements,

(iii) tractors, and connected machinery,

(iv) pumps and other machinery required for minor and emergency irrigation drainage and bunding works,

(v) diesel oil, petrol, etc., needed for working such machinery and other requirements of rice mills,

(vi) cold stores,

(vii) the transport needed for seed, manures, etc.

(b) Inter-provincial movements of seed potatoes, should be regulated by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and states concerned.

*Resolution No. VII.*

It is resolved that :

(a) Provincial and State Governments should supply the Government of India so far as is possible with their programmes for increasing the production of foods during the next two years, stating the figures of increased production that they expect will result.

The Government of India will assess the nutritional needs of the country and consult with provinces how any gap between the needs and the programmed production can be reduced.

(b) The programme of facilities to be provided in the shape of seeds, manures, depots for seeds, manures and implements, irrigation works, drainage works, bunds, etc., to complete the programme should be worked out by the Governments concerned and schemes prepared to try and provide the same in so far as local resources as supplemented by the Centre permit.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I have answers to the specific questions that I have put? One thing that I want to know is whether procurement and distribution of foodgrains is in the hands of the Central Government or whether these powers have been delegated to the provinces?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I have already given the answer in part (c). I have said that there is no central machinery for procurement and distribution of foodgrains in Sind.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Is it not a fact that there are inspectors and officers appointed by the Central Government to supervise the work of procurement and distribution of foodgrains in Sind?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** No, Sir. We have no Inspectors.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Is the Sind Food Purchase Board different in character as in name from the Syndicate?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Yes, Sir. That is another organisation.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Non-official or official in character?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Non-official, I believe.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** You are not sure?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** So I believe. I cannot say definitely, but it is non-official.

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

#### REVISION OF THE CONTEMPT OF COURT LAW

37. **\*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state if he has apprised himself of the fact that, during the time of his predecessor, the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar, a Bill was passed amending the Contempt of the Court Act, and an assurance was given that the Law of the Contempt of Court would be reviewed and a Consolidating Act on the subject would be passed?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that abuses of the Law of the Contempt of Court are committed by some courts especially by the Subordinate Courts and Magistrates?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware, having remained as an Advocate-General, that some Subordinate Courts and Magistrates use the powers of the Contempt of Court concededly to the prejudice of the Advocates and litigants?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that recently the District Magistrate of Balaghat convicted an Advocate for contempt of court for having greeted him on his entering the Court by only standing up and not saying 'Sir'?

(e) Have Government taken any action to the knowledge of the Honourable Member, against such a Magistrate? If so, what?

(f) Has the Honourable Member considered the advisability of introducing a Bill to provide improvement of the Law of the Contempt of Court in India and to remove the present abuses of it? If not, does the Honourable Member propose to do so at an earlier date?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** (a) The Contempt of Courts Act has been amended only by Act XII of 1937, which was passed during the Law Membership of Sir N. N. Sircar. If the Honourable Member will refer to the debate on the Bill which became that Act, he will find that no such assurance was either sought or given.

(b) and (c). I am not concerned to maintain that abuses never occur.

(d) and (e). The order in question was passed under section 480 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by the Deputy Commissioner of Balaghat sitting as a Revenue Court. The judgment, which I have seen, indicates that press reports of the incident are not in all respects accurate. The Advocate has filed an appeal under section 486 of the Code in the Court of the Commissioner and there can obviously be no question of action by Government while the incident remains *sub judice*.

(f) The Honourable Member is referred to the speech made by my predecessor on a resolution moved in the Council of State on the 25th March, 1942. The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed made it perfectly clear that Government were not prepared to consider any general amendment of the law of contempt, but he undertook to consider two specific points, namely the conferment of a right

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of appeal in contempt cases of a criminal nature and the barring of a scandalized Judge from participating in the adjudication of contempt proceedings based on scandalization. Provincial Governments and High Courts were duly consulted on these points, and on a careful consideration of the replies received it was decided to drop the proposals for the time being partly because much difference of opinion was revealed and partly in the hope that the Privy Council judgment in what is commonly known as the *Hindustan Times* case would produce a beneficial effect.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I want a specific reply to part (d) of my question. I did not follow the Honourable Member—did he say that the Advocate who appeared before the Magistrate (1st class) only stood up and did not say 'Sir' to him and was punished for the contempt of court?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** My Honourable friend must have seen a press cutting of the incident and I can only refer again to the answer I have given in regard to parts (d) and (e) of his question. I said that the order in question was passed under section 480 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by the Deputy Commissioner of Balaghat sitting as a revenue court. The Advocate has filed an appeal under section 486 of the Code in the court of the Commissioner. That is not yet decided.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** The Honourable Member suggested that the press report was not correct, if I heard him correctly. May I know the correct version?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I have told you that the Deputy Commissioner was sitting as a revenue court. The advocate went in to the court room and greeted the Court with a "Good Morning". As the Deputy Commissioner was sitting as a court he pointed out to the advocate that when addressing the court he should say 'Sir'. The advocate replied it was not his habit to say 'Sir' to any court. The Deputy Commissioner considered that the reply was an intentional insult to the court.

(Some Honourable Members rose to ask further supplementary questions.)

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. I cannot have a matter like this discussed here.

PRESERVATION OF KHEDALA FORT ANCIENT MONUMENTS

**38. \*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if the fort Khedala situated at a distance of four miles from Behil (C. P.) town is preserved under the Preservation of Ancient Monuments Act; if so, since when;

(b) if this fort, said to be built by Gond Rajput Kings, is in a very much dilapidated condition now; if so, what steps Government propose to take to preserve this ancient relic of those kings; and

(c) if Government are aware that there is an old *samadhi* of a well known poet, who lived in the 13th or 14th century, by name Mukundraj in the compound of this fort; that the *samadhi* is in a bad condition; and whether Government propose to take proper care to keep it in good condition?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) Yes; the date from which the monument was protected is being ascertained and will be furnished to the House when known.

(b) The fort is in a dilapidated condition and it is proposed to carry out special repairs such as underpinning and grouting, etc., as soon as funds become available.

(c) The old *samadhi* said to be that of Mukundraj is situated in the compound of the fort but is not at present protected by the Archaeological Survey. It will be inspected by an officer of the Survey at an early opportunity.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** May I know about this? I have been promised that everything would be done as early as possible. When does the government expect to do it—before the whole thing comes down and then start building it up?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I have nothing to add.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** May I have a definite information on this point? What does the Honourable Member mean by saying 'as soon as possible'? Would anything be done before the whole of the superstructure is razed to the ground and any trace of it is lost?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I said "as soon as funds become available".

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Has any attempt been made to secure material for this purpose?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** No, Sir; I did not mention "material" I said "as soon as funds become available"—not "materials".

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** When did this fact come to the notice of the Honourable Member?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** It came to my notice when the Honourable Member put his question.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Is it or is it not the duty of any person who is entrusted with the archæology in this province to bring such matters to the notice of the Honourable Member?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** I do not wish to be misunderstood. I am very grateful to the Honourable Member for bringing it to notice.

#### REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON MAURITIUS POLICE FIRING ENQUIRY

**39. \*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Report of the Royal Commission of Enquiry into the disturbances in Mauritius and police firing on that occasion (September 27, 1943) has now been received; if so,

(b) the causes which led to the disturbances and firing;

(c) the measures suggested to prevent such disturbances and to improve the conditions of labour in the Island; and

(d) the steps taken by His Majesty's Government and the Government of India to implement the recommendations made by this Royal Commission?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) The report was received by the Government of India on the 28th November 1944.

(b) and (c). Unsatisfactory economic conditions and low wages were the main causes of the disturbances. The firing was necessitated by the violent attitude of the crowd. Many far-reaching recommendations for the improvement of labour conditions and of the general administrative machinery have been made. For details I would refer the Honourable Member to the report, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

(d) The Government of India are awaiting information about action taken by His Majesty's Government and are also examining the recommendations. What action should be taken by the Government of India is under consideration.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** In view of the fact that these riots were caused on account of low and uneconomic wages, may I know if something should not be done promptly in order that similar riots may not break out again?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** The matter is under consideration.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Has anything been done during these two months which will indicate to this House that the Government of India is seriously taking steps? And if any steps have been taken, what are they? Or is it being merely considered?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I have already answered in regard to part (d) that we are awaiting information from His Majesty's Government.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Can the Government of India not do anything in this matter independently?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** We must know how the land lies there first.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** When was it that the Honourable Member asked the British Government to furnish information?

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

## DEVELOPMENT OF CROWN COLONIES AND SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF INDIANS THEREIN

**40. \*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) if he is aware that His Majesty's Government decided a couple of years ago to spend money on the Crown colonies to develop them and improve the condition of the inhabitants of these colonies and that an Act has been passed, for this purpose; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government of India have taken or propose to take to see that the Indians in these colonies get their legitimate share out of the amounts spent to improve their social and economic conditions?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Yes. An Act entitled "Colonial Development and Welfare Act" was passed by His Majesty's Government in 1940 for improvement of the British colonies including protectorates and mandated territories under the British Government.

(b) The Government of India are keeping a watch on this matter and there has been no occasion for taking any special action so far.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** In view of the fact that the money may be allotted to each of the colonies and may be distributed by the Governor or the Government, will the Government of India take early steps in order that they may not be late and they may not be told that the money allotted has been disposed of in a particular manner which may be prejudicial to the interests of the Indians?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I will bear that in mind.

## DAILY ALLOWANCE FOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBER ARRIVING BY TRAIN RUNNING LATE

**41. \*Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) if he is aware that a Member of the Assembly is not entitled to daily allowance if he arrives in Delhi in the afternoon of the day for which he would have been entitled if he would have arrived before noon; and

(b) if so, whether he will modify the rule in case a Member starts by a train for Delhi which ordinarily would arrive before noon but does not so arrive because it is late, having regard to the fact that the Member has to incur the same expenses as he would have done if he had arrived before noon?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** (a) Yes.

(b) I doubt the validity of the argument advanced by the Honourable Member and in any case I see no occasion to promote an amendment which would be applicable only to the case of a Member arriving afternoon who would have arrived before noon if his train had been punctual.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** There is the validity of it, in the latter part of (b), may I know if he now sees the validity of it?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** Not at all.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable Member take any steps if other trains also come late and bring us in the afternoon?

(No answer was given.)

## AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON EXPORT OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS TO INDIA

**42. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of the United States of America have put an absolute ban on the export of certain scientific and technical publications to India?

(b) Are Government aware that the export of other scientific and technical books is restricted to lbs. 4 and oz. 6 per parcel?

(c) Will Government make an enquiry into this matter and represent to the Agent General of the Government of India in the United States of America to take this matter up at Washington and to cause a release of technical and scientific publications for use in India?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) So far as Government are aware, there is no such ban. Only a licence is required. Periodicals, catalogues or pamphlets containing any technical data are permitted to be despatched by mail under a general licence, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Office of Censorship.

(b) Government understand that wartime postal regulations in the U. S. A. restrict the weight of a parcel despatched to other countries.

(c) Does not arise.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know whether the Honourable Member has made any special inquiry in view of the fact that scientific and technical matter is specifically picked out for restriction from being sent out to India by the United States Government, and was such a prohibition or restriction at the instance of His Majesty's ambassador there?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** So far as the latter part of the question is concerned, I can immediately say it was not. I am not aware of the circumstances if it is a fact. But I am prepared to make an inquiry into the matter. My friend will admit that a few days' notice of the question is not enough to get a reply to it.

#### ORDINANCES BROUGHT BEFORE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE FOR APPROVAL OR LEGISLATION

**43. \*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state whether any of the ordinances issued by the Viceroy and Governor General during the years 1943-44, have been brought before any of the Houses of the Central Legislature for approval or for legislation on the same subjects? If so, which and with what results?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know if there is any prohibition for the Government of India to bring Ordinances that are passed by His Excellency the Viceroy to this House either for approval or at least for information?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I think my Honourable friend can find the answer to that question for himself.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I am asking the Honourable Member who is a better authority.

#### GENERAL ELECTIONS TO CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES

**44. \*Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether elections to the Central Legislature will be held this year;

(b) whether this question has been considered by the Executive Council of the Viceroy;

(c) whether any correspondence has taken place between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government regarding this matter; and

(d) whether the general elections to the Central and Provincial Legislatures will take place simultaneously?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to his starred question No. 27 asked on the 9th November, 1943, from which he will observe that the question depends entirely on whether His Excellency the Governor General effects a further extension of the life of either or both Chambers, and I am not in a position to anticipate the decision at which His Excellency will arrive in this matter.

(b) and (c). No.

(d) If the Honourable Member will refer to section 61 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and to the India and Burma (Postponement of Elections) Act, 1941, he will realise that it is impossible for me to forecast whether the next general election to the Central Legislature will be held simultaneously with general elections to all or any Provincial Legislatures.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Can the Honourable Member give this House any reasons why the life of the Assembly is being extended from year to year in spite of protests from so many quarters in the country?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** That is a matter for His Excellency the Governor General. I can add nothing.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know if it is a fact that the British Government have decided that the Provincial Governments will remain in power for one year after the war and no election will take place earlier?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** I am very glad to hear this information.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member quote any representative Indian organisation or association which has asked for the continual increase of the tenure of office of these Legislatures?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** I do not know.

**BAN ON BOMBAY SIKHS FOR RUNNING FREE KITCHEN ON GURU GOBIND SINGH'S BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY**

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

(a) whether the Government have received a copy of the resolution passed at the religious general gathering of Bombay Sikhs on Sunday, the 17th December under the auspices of Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Bandra, Bombay;

(b) whether it is a fact that a ban was imposed on running Guru's free kitchen even by contributing and pooling together individual ration quotas by Sikhs out of their domestic weekly rations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as a protest against this ban the Sikhs abandoned all preparations for celebrating Guru Gobind Singh's birthday anniversary; and

(d) whether the Government will reconsider this question and instruct the Government of Bombay to permit the Sikhs in future on similar occasions to run Guru's free kitchen by contributing their individual rations?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government of India have no information.

(d) The general policy to be pursued is now under consideration.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I ask the Honourable Member to state whether he will take into confidence the Members of this House belonging to the Sikh community who will throw greater light on this question than his office?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I have no objection but this matter applies not only to the Sikhs but to all communities.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Will you take into consideration other communities also when you decide about them?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** The matter will go before the Central Advisory Committee.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Was this ban imposed in the interests of the general public?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** The position has not been correctly understood. I might explain that the permission to distribute eatables to 50 or more persons would have involved the relaxation of the existing order banning distribution of eatables to more than 50 people at one party, whether it is religious or otherwise.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** May I ask the Honourable Member if it is a fact that during last November, when the same question was raised before him about supplying food to the congregations here at Delhi; he consulted the Sikh members and he learnt a great deal which he did not know about the Sikh religion at that time and then he sanctioned the quota.

**POSITION OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**46. \*Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please make a comprehensive statement on the latest position regarding Indians in South Africa?

(b) Do Government contemplate to recall the High Commissioner from South Africa?

(c) What other steps Government contemplate to take in the matter to vindicate the position of Indians in South Africa?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a), (b) and (c). A statement will be made in connection with the adjournment motions on the subject and I would request the Honourable Member to await that.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** It is not certain whether the adjournment motion will be admitted. The Honourable Member must answer the question now.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** If he makes the statement now, the adjournment motion may not be brought up.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Notice has been given of an adjournment motion.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the adjournment motion be admitted?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** That is not for me to answer. If it is not admitted then you can put the questions again.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** That means waiting for another 15 days.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let this question stand over.

#### PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

†47. **\*Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Food Department mostly consists of non-Muslims?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government bring Muslims in the Department to maintain the ratio of services?

(c) Is it a fact that there is only one Muslim Officer in this Department and that there are three or even more than three non-Muslim Officers in the Department?

(d) If the answer to (c) above is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to vacate some more posts for Muslim Officers?

(e) Is it a fact that some Muslims are driven out of the job due to no faults of theirs and that they are denied promotions and that these jobs have gone to non-Muslims?

(f) If the above are true facts, are Government prepared to enquire into the matter, and to place the Establishment Portfolio under some reliable Muslim Officer?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) 22.6 per cent. of the staff are Muslims.

(b) Every endeavour will be made to do so in the future as in the past.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

#### RE-IMPOSITION OF BAN ON WOMEN WORKING UNDER GROUND IN MINES

48. **\*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether the matter of continuing to allow women inside the mines has been reviewed;

(b) how many women are now working under mines; and

(c) in view of the fact that women working underneath cannot even decently clothe themselves, whether he will consider the advisability of abolishing the practice altogether?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) The question of re-imposing the ban on the underground employment of women in coal mines, to which the Honourable Member presumably refers, has been reviewed.

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

(b) The figure varies but at present about 15,000 to 16,000 women are employed underground in coal mines.

(c) The ban has been lifted only as a temporary measure, and will be re-imposed as soon as conditions permit.

I may also add that all female workers, both surface and underground, are supplied with two *saris* per year at the concessional rates as arranged for by the various Mining Associations; at some mines the *saris* are given free and at others at half price.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** The question was not whether they get *saris* to wear. It is impossible for them to wear the *saris* in the mines and so the question of presentation of *saris* or giving them at concessional rates is absolutely irrelevant. I understand that they cannot wear *saris* above the waist line while working in the mines, because it is too hot?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** It is quite wrong.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** When do you expect to reimpose the ban?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** As soon as circumstances permit.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** What are the circumstances?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** They are not under my control nor am I able to anticipate them.

#### ALL-INDIA HANDLOOM WEAVERS BOARD

**49. \*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether Government have appointed the contemplated All-India Handloom Weavers Board;

(b) the constitution of the Board; and

(c) the money set apart for the use of the Board to develop the handloom industry?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The Resolution appointing the Board is now under issue.

(b) The constitution of the Board will be as follows: The Board will consist of thirty members who will hold office in the first place for one year:

(i) The Textile Commissioner (*Ex-Officio* Chairman),

(ii) 3 Non-Officials nominated by the Government of India

(iii) 17 Members nominated by the Provinces as follows:

Assam . . . 1

Bengal . . . 3 (including 2 representatives of Handloom industry)

Bihar . . . 1

Bombay . . . 2 (including 1 representative of Handloom industry)

C. P. . . . 1

Madras . . . 4 (including 3 representatives of Handloom industry)

Orissa . . . 1

Punjab . . . 2 (including 1 representative of Handloom industry)

U. P. . . . 2 (including 1 representative of Handloom industry).

(iv) 4 members nominated one each by the following States:

(a) Hyderabad; (b) Mysore; (c) Travancore; and (d) Kolhapur and Deccan States.

(v) 5 members representing the millowning interests (nominated by the Textile Control Board).

The Board may appoint sub-committees to deal with specific subjects within its terms of reference, and these sub-committees may co-opt extra members to an extent not exceeding one third of their numbers.

(c) No special grant has been made to the Board but the annual Rs. 5 lakhs grant for the development of handloom industry will be spent in consultation with it.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Does the number of representatives depend upon the number of weavers in the province or the size of the province?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** One of the main considerations is the extent of the handloom industry in the province.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know why the Frontier Province is not represented on this body?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Obviously because there is very little of handloom industry in the province.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** I think the Honourable Member is misinformed. If these small States can find representation, there is absolutely no reason why this province should be left out from this all-India organisation. The same thing happened with regard to the rice control organisation which was recently set up.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am prepared to go into the question and find out the extent of the handloom industry in the province.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** In view of the fact that it is the Board for handloom weavers, what is the necessity of having the representatives of textile industries on it?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Obviously because the handloom industry depends upon the supply of yarn and the yarn today has to be given by the textile industry. I should, therefore, like those persons to be represented there so that there may be a settlement of all questions.

**Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer:** Will this Board function through its Sub-Committee?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** That will depend entirely upon the terms of reference.

**Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer:** Will those terms be approved by the Government?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Yes: the terms of reference of the Board would be decided by the Government, but the Board will be free to find out whether it should function independently or function through the Sub-Committees.

**Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer:** In other words, the Board may delegate its powers to the Sub-Committee?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** It may or may not.

**Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Why is it that Bihar has been given only one representative when the weavers number more than 25 lakhs.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** It is difficult to enter into mathematical discussion during the supplementary questions.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of having a non-official Vice-President on this Board on the precedent of the Indian Central Cotton Committee which has also a non-official President?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** The most important question for the time being before this Board will be the rational distribution of yarn throughout India. As it is a very complex matter, I feel that for the time being it will be better to allow this Board to function. It is for that reason that the term of appointment of this Board is for the time being only one year. We will examine the question raised afterwards. This question will come at a later stage.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** If the question today is the rational distribution of yarn throughout India, is it not desirable that all provinces should be represented on this Board?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I might say that there are certain provinces whom we consulted and they said that they were not interested in the Board.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Was the North-West Frontier Province consulted?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am not prepared to answer individually, but I know this definitely that some provinces are not at all interested in the constitution of the Board.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I would like to know whether the Government of India are contemplating to fix themselves or leave it to this Board the quota of yarn to be used by the handlooms and by the textile factories?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am sorry I have not been able to understand the question.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Is the Government contemplating to fix the quota of yarn which should be used by the handloom industry and by the mills?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** That is too large a question because the mills are producing these yarns and we have to keep the general supply of the country for the purpose of supplying the cloth to the people. What should be the decision on this matter will only be arrived at after the recommendations are made but at present I am not in a position to say anything definitely.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** This is a very important question because these factories are not very generous to the handlooms and we have the apprehension that these handlooms will be killed by these factories unless the Government comes to their aid.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** It is very difficult for me to say anything on that because, on the one hand, the position is that the mills are producing the yarn and using their own yarn except that which is supplied to other mills. Therefore, it is very difficult for us to come to a settlement on this question by an arbitrary decision. We are trying to persuade to keep both the industries together, namely, the textile and the handloom.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will not the better solution be to separate the yarn altogether?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** There are many ideal solutions which are mathematically feasible but socially impracticable.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** May I know from the Honourable Member if it is already in the contemplation of the Government that this All-India Board should also furnish free looms, if necessary, to the weavers?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am quite clear in my own mind that it would not be possible just now to give free looms to the weavers. For the time being, we have got enough looms in the country and our headache is how to supply yarn to them.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** I also want to know from the Honourable Member if it is the policy of the Government to allow this Board to take steps for the rehabilitation of the handloom industry where it is carried on?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** My friend should wait till the terms of reference are actually published in the papers. If he is not satisfied after reading them, he can put a question.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Will the Honourable Member kindly keep this point in view when he draws up the terms of reference?

(No answer.)

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** I missed my Honourable friend's statement with regard to the representation of textile interests on this Board. Will he kindly repeat it?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** 5 out of 30.

#### IMPOSITION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

50. \***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether Government have considered the resolution passed by the Assembly with regard to the taking of economic sanctions against South Africa; and

(b) what steps have been taken in the matter?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration and no final decision has yet been taken.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** When does the Government expect to come to a conclusion in the matter?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** When the consideration will be complete.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Are Government considering the abrogation of the trade treaty with South Africa?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** We are considering everything.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I have a specific answer to my question?

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

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Has there been any reference to His Majesty's Government on this subject?

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

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Sir, this question has not been answered in detail because it says: "What steps have been taken in the matter"?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** The question of steps can only arise when they are under consideration.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** So, no steps have been taken?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** No, Sir.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Among the steps referred to in part (b) of the question, is a reference to His Majesty's Government included?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Not yet.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member why he has been concealing these things from us for such a long time and when is he likely to make their delivery to us?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Behave yourself.

#### FOOD SITUATION IN BENGAL, MALABAR, ETC.

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

(a) the latest food situation in Bengal, Malabar, Cochin, Travancore and Vizagapatam;

(b) the ration of rice rationed in Cochin now as against 5½ ounces which he mentioned in the last session; and

(c) whether rice has been imported to strengthen our resources in the last three months; if so, how much?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) 8 ozs. per adult per day; but the ration is going to be raised to 12 ozs. per adult per day very shortly.

(c) If the Honourable Member is referring to imports of rice into India, the answer is in the negative.

#### *Statement showing the latest food situation in Bengal, Malabar, Cochin Travancore and Vizagapatam*

**Bengal.**—After a record Aman crop last year Bengal had a normal crop this year. The procurement policy of the Bengal Government has been very successful and the Bengal Government have started the new year with large stocks in hand. Prices showed a steady and in some cases a very marked fall till the end of October, but have hardened to some extent during the last two months.

**Malabar.**—As a result of the arrival of special quotas from the Punjab and Sind, the stock position in Malabar has greatly improved. Under the scheme of district-wide rationing, 8 out of 9 taluqs have been rationed. The ration fixed is 12.4 ozs. per adult per day.

**Travancore & Cochin.**—The food position in the two States is fairly satisfactory. They have stocks of wheat sufficient to last until the end of April. Travancore has built up a substantial reserve of rice as well and has agreed to advance to Cochin 15,000 tons of rice from future imports. This has enabled Cochin to raise its rice ration to 8 ozs. per adult per day. The rice portion of the ration in Travancore has been raised from 9 to 9.5 ozs. per adult per day, the total cereal ration being 15.5 ozs. in Travancore and 12 ozs. in Cochin.

**Vizagapatam.**—The food position in Vizagapatam has considerably improved with the arrival of increased stocks from the Delta area, Orissa and the Central Provinces. A system of voluntary rationing has been introduced throughout the district. A rice ration of 8 ozs. per adult per day is issued in addition to other grains, which are not rationed.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know whether the situation in Vizagapatam is really very bad and that there are famine conditions prevailing there?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** The situation in Vizagapatam has recently improved considerably, I understand.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Have the rations allowed for the rural areas of Vizagapatam been increased?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** The rice ration today is 8 oz. per adult per day in addition to other grains.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** With reference to part (b), did the Honourable Member say that it would be increased to 12 oz.?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Yes, in Cochin.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know whether in addition to this 12 oz. of rice what other grains are given and how much are they given?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I would like to have notice of that question. I have the information somewhere; but I cannot give it off-hand.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With reference to the Honourable Member's admission that in addition to other grains a ration of 8 oz. is being allowed, does he mean to say that the other grains are being supplied by Government or are the rural population expected to shift for themselves in obtaining whatever they can from black markets and otherwise?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I understand that the system of voluntary rationing has been introduced in the district. My Honourable friend knows the details better than I do probably.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The system of voluntary rationing only embraces the supply of 8 oz. of rice and not the supply of other grains.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** It may be.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In that case, will the Government consider the advisability of procuring other grains also and rationing and distributing all the other grains so that poor people may get their proper share without having to resort to the black market?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I will look into the matter further.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** Is the statement too long to be read out? After all this is very important and we would like to know what the statement contains.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** It is rather long and it will take up much of the time of the House. I have no objection to read it out.

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

#### CASUALTIES IN COAL MINES

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

(a) how many people were killed or wounded while working in coal mines in 1943 and 1944;

(b) whether the proposal of providing "Pit head baths" for women engaged in the mines and creches for their children has been given effect to, and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

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

	Killed	Injured
(a) 1943	290	1,320
1944	332	1,395

(b) So far pit head baths have been provided only in the Digwardih Collieries; creches have been installed in 7 collieries of Central Provinces and in one colliery of Raniganj (Bengal).

(c) The Government of India are not aware of the reasons for the delay. They have under active consideration the question of amending the Indian Mines Act to make it obligatory on the mine owners who employ women workers to maintain creches.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Government see that these improvements are effected in good time before the ban on employment of women takes place?

Otherwise, there will be no use for these improvements later on? Will the Honourable Member see that they are not delayed too long?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Employment of woman underground may be stopped but employment of women on the surface will continue. Creches will be necessary. That does not mean that I am going to delay matters.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How many of those cases reported killed, due to mining accidents, were women?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I want notice.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** What percentage of these deaths was due to asphyxiation and what percentage was due to accidents?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I want notice.

#### INADEQUACY OF FOODGRAINS IN NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

**53. \*Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether representations have been made by the Government of the North-West Frontier Province about the inadequacy of foodgrains in the Province;

(b) if so, the nature of those representations;

(c) whether the Government of the North-West Frontier Province have urged the removal of restrictions on the movement of foodgrains from the Punjab into the North-West Frontier Province;

(d) whether the Hazara and Dera Ismail Khan Districts of the North-West Frontier Province suffer from shortage of foodgrains;

(e) whether foodgrains are exported from the North-West Frontier Province to the tribal areas; and

(f) the action taken by the Government of India to meet this scarcity, and whether the same has met the situation?

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

(b) They referred to a shortage of wheat and maize in the N.-W. F. P. and asked for assistance.

(c) Yes.

(d) They are usually deficit in the main foodgrains.

(e) Yes.

(f) The Government of India allotted 7,000 tons of maize to the N.-W. F. P. in 1944, and the wheat quota was raised from 23,000 tons to 36,000 tons as against the normal import of 28,000 tons. Supplies of wheat to Peshawar City were guaranteed from October to May to enable rationing to be introduced. Deliveries of wheat and maize were expedited. These measures restored the situation which is now reported to be satisfactory.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Is the Honourable Member aware of the very serious situation in Dera Ismail Khan where grain shops were closed and women have had to return empty handed?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I have no report about it.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Is the Honourable Member aware that the wheat supplied contains an admixture of stones and other stuff quite unfit for human consumption? I have got a sample with me which I can show the Honourable Member, if he likes.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I am not aware of it. But if my Honourable friend will report any particular case to me, I will get it enquired into.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know if it is a fact that the contractor engaged for grinding the wheat is interested in seeing that only *atta* is supplied and therefore bad wheat is being supplied intentionally? This is the report which I have received.

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I shall make a note of the information supplied by my Honourable friend.

## REPORT OF WOODHEAD COMMISSION ON BENGAL FAMINE

54. \*Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

- (a) whether any report or recommendation has been made to the Government of India by the Woodhead Commission on the Bengal famine;
- (b) if so, when the above was submitted, whether the same will be published, and the nature of the recommendations made therein; and
- (c) whether he can give any idea as to when the other part or parts of the Commission's Report will be made public?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) and (b). Certain recommendations have been made by the Commission on matters within their terms of reference which they considered it advisable to make in advance of their report. I regret that I am not prepared, at this stage, to disclose their nature more precisely nor to give any indication regarding publication.

(c) No, Sir, but the Commission hope to submit their Report on Bengal by the end of February and their final Report about two months later.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will an opportunity be given to this House to discuss the report of this Commission?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I am unable to say at the moment.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is the Honourable Member in a position to give any idea about the probable time when this report is likely to be made?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I have already answered that.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** I understood the Honourable Member to say that some portion of the report will be made in two months, when is the whole report expected?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I have given my reply in answer to part (c). The final report is expected two months later, that is to say, two months after February.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Do I take it there has been an interim report making certain recommendations?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I had better read again my reply to part (c):

"No, Sir: but the Commission hope to submit their report on Bengal by the end of February and their final report about two months later."

**Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** What is the difference between the report to be submitted by the end of February and the final report to be submitted later on?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** The first report will be on Bengal and the final report will cover the entire country.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member give an opportunity to this House to discuss the food situation, especially in view of the discussions and the recommendations made at the recent Food conference at which only officials were present?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** I thought the Assembly was rather tired of food debates.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** May I inform the Honourable Member that the Assembly is taking a very keen interest in the food situation and it would therefore like to have an early opportunity to discuss this subject.

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

## TREATY OF NAVIGATION AND COMMERCE WITH UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

55. \*Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken or are in contemplation to negotiate a treaty of commerce and navigation between India and the United States of America;

(b) if so, whether any progress has been made so far;

(c) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, the reason why such action has not been taken; and

(d) whether the Indian businessmen in the United States of America are handicapped by the absence of such a treaty, and the nature of the disabilities that they suffer from?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) and (b). Negotiations commenced a few years ago but further consideration of the matter has been postponed during the present emergency.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is by no means certain whether the handicaps of Indian businessmen in the United States of America would be removed by the negotiation of a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, particularly if the provisions of the Treaty were subject to a proviso that the extension of facilities to Indians to travel for business purposes was without prejudice to the existing emigration or immigration laws of either country. As the Honourable Member is aware, separate negotiations are afoot for the grant to Indians of rights of entry into the United States which would be without relation to the negotiation of a Treaty of Commerce. The actual disabilities to which Indians in common with aliens of many other countries are liable in the United States in consequence of the Immigration and Nationality Laws of that country are summarised in the statement which was laid on the table of the House in reply to question No. 2054 asked by Sardar Mangal Singh on 12th December 1938.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know the reason why the idea of negotiating a treaty was given up?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** As I have made it clear the treaty of commerce and navigation stands on quite a different footing from the rights of Indians to go there or acquire citizenship and the question of commerce and navigation is on a different plane. The whole question will have to be considered in its relation to existing conditions and post war conditions. For reasons which I am not prepared to disclose at this stage, though the negotiation commenced, it was not proceeded with.

**Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee:** May I know whether the Americans now resident in India suffer the same disabilities as Indians suffer in America with regard to business and other civil rights?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I do not know what are the disabilities of Americans which the Honourable Member is referring to?

**Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee:** I am referring to the disabilities which Indians suffer in America and I want to know whether Americans in India suffer the same kind of disabilities? This is an explicit question.

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I want notice. But my impression is that there are no disabilities under the Government of India Act.

**Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee:** Why not?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I cannot say why not. I am simply replying to facts.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know whether the reasons which he cannot give this House for discontinuing the negotiations about this treaty in the beginning of 1939, whether those reasons are of such prime military importance that he could not take the House into his confidence?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** As I have said the question of commerce and navigation treaty stands on quite a different footing. There is very little of commerce and navigation in war time, and in war time all imports and exports are controlled by Government and as the Honourable Member is aware, we are getting things from America without reference to any treaty of trade and commerce. It is only when normal conditions are restored that the question of commerce and trade treaty will arise and therefore it would be taken as part of post war consideration.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Several trade treaties between various countries in the world, particularly between the United Kingdom and Egypt have been negotiated. Various trade treaties have, as a matter of fact, been negotiated even with the United States of America. When trade treaties by other nations are negotiated during wartime, whenever they see the necessity, will the Honour-

able Member explain why the Indian Government have been compelled by His Majesty's Government not to go into it?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** At present it is wartime understanding and agreements that regulate trade between two different countries, particularly between America and India. The question of treaties of commerce and navigation will have to be taken up when normal conditions come back.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Do I take it that the idea of a treaty of this character was initiated by the U.S.A., and that the Government of India did not encourage the idea on the grounds stated by the Honourable Member?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** It is not a fact.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Who was it that initiated the idea?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I think it is very difficult for me to say off hand but I think both the Governments took up that question.

#### ENLARGEMENT OF FEDERAL COURT FUNCTIONS

56. \***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Law Member please state:

(a) whether any progress has been made with the enlargement of the functions of the Federal Court both with respect to civil and criminal appeals;

(b) if so, the nature of the said proposals;

(c) whether any draft Bill has been prepared in connection with the matter referred to in (a) above;

(d) if so, the nature of the proposed legislation either here or in Great Britain, and the time it is likely to take; and

(e) the policy of the Government with reference to such enlargement of functions?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** (a) to (e). The Honourable Member is referred to the Resolution of the Government of India in the Legislative Department No. F.209/41-C.&G. (Judicial) dated the 15th January, 1945, which has been published in the *Gazette of India*, and copies of which have been supplied to Honourable Members.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know why the Government of India has agreed to giving the choice of a forum to the appellant? Would it not make a discrimination against a poor man in favour of a rich man?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I can only tell you what the proposals under contemplation are. If the Honourable Member has any suggestions to make he is at liberty to do so. He must have noticed that comments have been invited from any person or association desiring to furnish comments on the proposals and I take it that the Honourable Member would put forward such suggestions as he thinks proper.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Apart from the question of comments, may I know why the question of criminal appeals has been altogether ignored?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** The only answer that I can give you is that no proposal to give the Federal Court any general criminal appellate jurisdiction is or has been under contemplation. Again, I say it is open to my Honourable friend to suggest that the Federal Court should have general criminal appellate jurisdiction or such limited appellate jurisdiction as he thinks proper.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** May I know when this matter is likely to be debated in this House? Will the Government set apart a day for the purpose?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** My Honourable friend must have noticed that comments on the proposals will be received up to the 1st of May, 1945 and I presume that the House will debate the matter sometime after that.

#### HAJ PILGRIMS NOT PROVIDED SHIP ACCOMMODATION AT KARACHI

57. \***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state the total number of pilgrims in both the batches who, after being instructed by the Pilgrim Officer to reach the port of Karachi, were not provided with accommodation on board the ship and had to return home?

(b) With reference to my demi-official letter, dated the 15th November, 1944, to the Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare, regarding the maladministration of the Pilgrim Officer, Government of India, what action has the Honourable Member taken or he proposes to take to avoid a recurrence of incidents of that and allied nature?

(c) Is it a fact that production of a certificate by a competent medical authority for vaccination against small pox and cholera by the intending pilgrims was made a condition for their eligibility to proceed to pilgrimage?

(d) Is it a fact that even after undergoing vaccinations some of the pilgrims were not provided with accommodation on board the ship and thus could not proceed to Mecca?

(e) What is the total number of pilgrims who could not proceed to Mecca after reaching the port of Karachi and whose passage money was not refunded till long after the sailings took place?

(f) Are there still any such cases in which the passage money remains un-refunded till this day? If so, why?

(g) What action have Government taken or propose to take to improve the mode of pilgrimage for future years?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Instructions were issued by the Government of India. The Pilgrim or Haj Officer did not issue instructions to any pilgrim to reach Karachi.

(b) An enquiry was made and it was found that if the person concerned had stayed at Karachi up to the evening of the 1st November, 1944, when orders increasing the carrying capacity of the ships were received, he would have got a passage to Hejaz. He left at noon that day. No bad faith was proved against the Haj Officer or the Haj Booking Officer and no action is therefore, considered necessary.

(c) Pilgrims are required to produce vaccination and inoculation certificates before embarkation. This was not made a prior condition for the issue of reservation cards.

(d) There might have been cases of the kind referred to and pilgrims often got themselves inoculated privately but could not be provided with accommodation owing to their non-compliance with other conditions for sailing.

(e) 160 persons, who had applied too late to be entitled to passage, arrived at Karachi after the prescribed date. No extra shipping accommodation was also available for them. The passage money of these persons was refunded from the 2nd to 5th November 1944, i.e., to say, within a week after the sailing.

(f) There are some cases but the delay in refunding in those cases has been caused by the non-production of documents necessary to support claims for refund, for example, reservation cards, money order receipts, etc.

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Will the Honourable Member give the House a definite assurance that the Government would be more prompt in future in the payment of refunds?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** We have always been prompt. If there is any delay, it is not due to our fault.

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** Sir, I raise a point of order on part (b) of this question. There is a reference made in that part to a demi-official letter that the Honourable the questioner had sent to the Honourable Member. No details of the letter are given. There is a reference to some charge of maladministration against somebody. Honourable Members are at a disadvantage to know what it is all about. Can such reference be allowed in questions?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question was about the action taken or to be taken by Government and that has been answered.

**Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan:** What the Honourable Member means is this. Can a reference be made to a document which is not public property and about which the Members of the House have no information or knowledge?

**Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** And if it is referred to, the House should know what it is, specially when there is a charge of maladministration.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think I gave a ruling before that if a reference is made to some statement appearing in a newspaper the substance of that should be given in the question. And that also applies to a case like this; that is to say, the Honourable Member who put this question ought to have mentioned the substance of the contents of the letter.

**Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan:** Sir, in view of your ruling, may I put a question to the Honourable Member? Will the Honourable Member be good enough to supply a copy of the letter to the Members or lay it on the table?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** It is a letter addressed by an Honourable Member to me. If he has no objection I have no objection either.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** When the Honourable Member has been pleased to refer to that letter, does he not think it is his duty to disclose the nature of that letter?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** That is only with reference to the questioner. If he does not object, I have no objection. Therefore he should be asked about it.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** There is no such thing as asking him. The letter is now the property of the House when reference is made to it. He is no longer in possession of the letter; it is in the possession of the House.

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

### (b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

#### RICE AND ATTA DETERIORATED IN GOVERNMENT GODOWNS

**58. \*Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rice and Atta and their value which has rotten and decomposed and thus became unfit for human consumption in different Government godowns during the year 1944;

(b) whether the attention of the Honourable Member has been drawn to the following Associated Press news which appeared in the *Hindustan Standard* on the 2nd and 11th December, 1944, respectively:—

(i) about 8,000 maunds of Atta valued at Rs. 80,000 is lying in a decomposed condition in the Government Godown at Kamalaghat in Munshiganj Sub-division of the Dacca District; and

(ii) about 850 maunds of Atta so long rotting in one of the Government godowns in Noakhali town and several thousand maunds of decomposed Atta has similarly been rotting in the Government godowns at Chowmohani and other places; and

(c) how much money Government have spent since the formation of the Food Department for building godowns and stores for storing foodgrains and what is the total capacity of such stores?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) and (c). Information has been called for from the Provincial Governments and will be laid on the table of the House when received.

(b) Yes.

#### TRADE TREATY WITH SOUTH AFRICA

**59. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the present position with regard to the Trade Treaty with South Africa, the provisional agreement for which was made in March, 1938?

(b) Has the permanent agreement been made?

(c) If so, what is that agreement?

(d) Has any modification been made with regard to the terms on which South African goods may reach this country and be subjected to customs tariff?

(e) Are the Government of India bound to extend to South Africa the most favoured nation treatment with regard to customs tariff?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) There has been no other agreement since the one concluded in March 1938.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement, so long as the Agreement is in force.

#### ENQUIRY INTO HEALTH AND NUTRITION IN INDIA

**60. \*Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware of the description of the enquiry being conducted by the Indian Health Survey and Development Committee as "a farce" by Dr. Edith Summerskill in the House of Commons when Mr. Amery was answering questions regarding health and nutrition in India?

(b) Is the Medical Research Council engaged in investigating the effects of famine in Bengal in respect of malnutrition and deficiency diseases. If not, why not?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) Government have seen a press report to this effect.

(b) No. The Medical Research Council finances medical research in the United Kingdom and not in India. The Indian Research Fund Association has made grants for certain scientific enquiries in connection with the famine, including investigation of methods of treatment of sick starving destitutes and of clinical conditions associated with malnutrition. The general effect of famine in Bengal and the possibility of improving the diet of the people comes within the scope of the enquiry being conducted by the Famine Inquiry Commission.

#### MINERAL DEPOSITS IN SOUTH INDIA

**61. \*Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the different types of mineral deposits—metallic and non-metallic found in South India as a result of the occasional survey done by the Geological Department during the past thirty years?

(b) Is it a fact that deposits of magnetic iron ore are found in large quantities in easily accessible places?

(c) Was there any attempt made by the Government of India to establish an iron and steel industry or encourage others to establish one in the vicinity of these deposits? If not, why not?

(d) Was there any systematic examination and investigation of the following deposits in the Madras Province (i) copper, (ii) zinc, (iii) lead, and (iv) aluminium? If so, what are the results?

(e) Is it not a fact that ceramic articles of high quality could be manufactured in the Province of Madras if the resources are properly tapped? Are there any investigations made with regard to this industry? If not, why not?

(f) Is it not a fact that Ilmenite, an important mineral for manufacture of paint, could be found in some of the Southern districts? Was there any scheme or attempt made to develop this industry? If not, why not?

(g) Is it not a fact that large quantities of mica, an irreplaceable mineral for high tension electrical work, is found in some of the coastal districts of the Madras Province?

(h) Is it not a fact that mica is simply mined and exported to foreign countries without any attempt to start an industry for the preparation of electrical goods?

(i) Do the Government of India propose to establish in Southern India a central research organization to study these deposits? If so, when? If not, why not?

(j) Is it not a fact that almost all the scientific research institutions started and to be started under the Bureau of Scientific and Industrial Research would be located in Northern India?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) *Metallic:* Chromite, iron ores, ilmenite, and Columbite-Tantalite.

*Non-Metallic:* Ceramic materials including Kaolin, Fireclay and other types of clays, quartz, felspar, and sillimanite, Coal Lignite, and Rare Earth Minerals including Monazite, Zircon, and Samarskite.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. The ore is low grade and is not associated with suitable fuel for smelting.

(d) Yes. No deposits of economic value have however been discovered by the Geological Survey.

(e) Possibly. The Madras Government have given attention to this question and have employed Ceramic Experts.

The Geological Survey is conducting investigations on the quantity and quality of ceramic materials in Madras.

(f) *First part.* Yes. *Second part.* No, because the deposits in Travancore are much richer than those in Madras, and the demand for this mineral is limited.

(g) Yes.

(h) Yes, mica is largely exported.

(i) The Government of India have under consideration a scheme of expansion of the Geological Survey of India, both in personnel and in activities; it is hoped that in future a much more intensive study of the mineral deposits in the country would be possible than is the case at present.

(j) The question should be addressed to the appropriate Member.

#### NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND BRITISH SHIP-BUILDING INDUSTRY

**62. \*Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is a fact that the Indian Government sent an official to London to negotiate with the British Government and the British ship-building industry?

(b) If so, what is the object of such negotiations?

(c) At what stage do the negotiations stand?

(d) When was he sent? And when is he expected to return? If he has returned, what is the result of the negotiations?

(e) Is it a fact that he purchased on behalf of the Government of India small ships useful for coastal traffic? If so, how many, and at what price?

(f) Is there any plan to build such ships in Indian docks? If so, would the plan be laid on the table? If not, why not?

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

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

(f) Government in the Planning and Development Department are shortly setting up a panel to advise them on shipbuilding and Marine Engineering. Government will formulate a plan on receipt of the panel report.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST HANDLOOM WEAVERS OF CHITTOOR

**63. \*Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware of 15,000 handlooms remaining idle for months together in the district of Chittoor?

(b) Is it not a fact that winter season is the most conducive for handloom industry?

(c) Is it not a fact that handloom industry suffered a good deal for want of work?

(d) Is it not a fact that the demand for 60.5 (quality) yarn is very great and the supply is very inadequate?

(e) Is it not a fact that against the monthly quota of yarn of all varieties ordinarily consumed which came to nearly 2,000 bales including all varieties of yarn, only 500 bales per month was allotted to this district?

(f) Are Government aware that such curtailment of supply will affect the well being of handloom weavers and increase the unemployment of this class of people of the district?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) This is not a fact. There are only 9,000 looms in Chittoor and adequate allotment has been made to them.

(b) No. The winter season is most suitable only for fine counts.

(c) No.

(d) No. Demand for 60.5 counts yarn is small and it is rarely manufactured.

(e) 592 bales have been allocated. This is adequate for 9,000 looms.

(f) Does not arise in view of answer to (e).

#### PROPOSAL FOR INDIAN COUNTERPART OF THE U. K. C. C.

**64. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state who made the proposal for an Indian counterpart of the U.K.C.C.?

(b) Do Government propose to set up such an organisation after the war?

(c) Is it proposed to run it, with a Government staff and Government capital?

(d) If so, what would be its constitution and functions?

(e) Are non-officials encouraged or invited for forming such a corporation, and, if so, with whom and what kind of negotiations have so far taken place?

(f) Will Government state their final policy with regard to this matter and also why do Government seek to restrict trade and canalise it into a single monopoly corporation?

(g) Have Government found any other instances in the world of such monopoly corporations functioning successfully in peace time, and, if so, what are they?

(h) Have Government any information whether the U.K.C.C. will continue its activity after the war, or whether it will be liquidated at the termination of the hostilities?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The desirability of establishing a Government organization in India similar to the U. K. C. C. has been suggested by some Indian commercial bodies from time to time.

(b) It is not possible to say at this stage whether it will be found necessary to set up such an organization after the war.

(c) to (g). Do not arise in view of the answer to (b).

(h) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given in this House on the 5th August 1943, to Mr. Neogy's starred question No. 220.

#### DAMODAR CANAL AND POLAVARAM PROJECTS

**65. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of his references to the Tennessee Valley Authority as a model after which the Damodar Canal (Bengal) and Polavaram (Madras) projects are to be developed, Government would be pleased to get a brief report published about the general aspects of that scheme and its achievements;

(b) whether, in view of the special need of Bengal for relief from floods, flood-relief will be accepted as the primary objective of the proposed Damodar project; and

(c) whether, in view of the great need of scheduled classes (Harijans) of Bengal and Bihar for lands, the Government of India will take special steps to set aside adequate funds for obtaining large areas of lands for co-operative settlement and cultivation by the Harijans of Bengal and Bihar?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) The Tennessee Valley Authority is a foreign Government organisation. A copy of the report on the working of the Authority will be obtained and placed in the library of the House.

(b) Yes; flood-control will receive priority over other aspects of control measures.

(c) The problem of the best way of helping landless labourers is engaging the attention of Government.

#### INDIA'S POSITION *vis-avis* ATLANTIC CHARTER

**66. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the press reports which stated that President Roosevelt has declared that the Atlantic Charter was never formally signed; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of India will re-examine India's position *vis-a-vis* the fourth clause of that charter which threatened to throw open Indian and other colonial resources for the free access and exploitation by all other countries and see that in any future international discussions, India is not made a party to the implications of such a clause?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** The position is made clear by the Prime Minister's reply to Mr. Rhys Davies's question in the House of Commons on the same subject which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of the 17th January, 1945. A copy of the Press report on the subject has been placed in the Library of the House.

#### RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS BE TRADE MARK REGISTRATION BETWEEN BRITISH INDIA AND INDIAN STATES

**67. \*Sir F. E. James:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state, with reference to starred question No. 74, dated the 10th February, 1944, and his reply thereto:

(a) if his Department, has received representations from the Associated Chambers of Commerce on the need for an early settlement of the difficulties arising out of the obligation to satisfy the requirements of more than one registration authority in India and urging the acceptance of a common policy on Trade Mark Registration as between British India and the various Indian States;

(b) if the Government of India have yet heard from the Indian States with regard to their proposals for reciprocal arrangement; and

(c) if, in view of the urgency of the matter, Government will take immediate steps to effect reciprocal arrangements between British India and those Indian States which have intimated their willingness to co-operate in the matter?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government are fully aware of the urgency of the matter but the Honourable Member will no doubt appreciate that the scheme in order to be successful must include all industrially advanced States and not only those that have expressed willingness to co-operate in the matter.

#### DRAINS AND ROADS ON LODI ROAD ESTATE

**68. \*Sir F. E. James:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if he is aware—

(i) that the drainage system of the Lodi Road Estate needs drastic overhaul and that if this not done without delay this area will become extremely unhealthy;

(ii) that in spite of repeated requests by residents for repairs to be carried out, no satisfactory action has yet been taken; and

(iii) that the roads on this Estate are in bad repair; and

(b) if he will instruct the appropriate Department to take immediate steps to improve the drains and roads in this area in order to safeguard the health of the residents therein?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) (i) No. The waste from the houses is disposed of through soakage pits and the sanitary conditions of the Estate are as good as they can be for a dry system;

(ii) We have not received any requests regarding repairs to the drainage system. Verbal complaints received at the Enquiry Office were attended to promptly.

(iii) Yes.

(b) The necessity of improving the roads in order to bring them up to the general standard of roads in New Delhi and of converting the present drainage system into water borne system has already been accepted by Government. In view of the amount of expenditure involved and the shortage of materials it is not possible to effect these improvements at present.

#### SUFFERINGS OF PASSENGERS AT VIRAMGAM RAILWAY STATION

69. \*Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Commerce Member received complaints and representations and has he seen such complaints and representations in the press with regard to the intolerable sufferings of passengers at the Viramgam station?

(b) What steps have Government taken since the last session to enquire into this matter?

(c) What reports have they received and will they circulate these reports to the Members?

(d) Have Government thought of making the examination in the carriages or, in the alternative, on the platform immediately opposite each bogey, which can be screened off on two sides by moving partitions and of increasing the number of entrances between one platform and the other so that those whose examination is finished can go over to the other side?

(e) What was the number of porters licensed to work at Viramgam platform before the examination of outgoing passengers was adopted?

(f) What was their number before the recent method of examination in a small room was adopted?

(g) Has the number been since increased? If so, by how many?

(h) Have Government any information, apart from the insufficiency of porters, as to what charges the public have to pay to the porters, and do Government consider such charges extortionate?

(i) Have cases of incivility by Railway police and customs officials been mentioned either in the press or in representations to Government and, if so, what steps have been taken to ease the situation with regard to courtesy and helpfulness by officials who are paid by the taxpayer?

(j) Will Government make a clear statement of their policy on the subject as to whether they apprehend goods being brought in which have not paid any customs duty or whether they apprehend goods being taken out under the export control which should not be taken out or what is the principal reason why Government will not make a change?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** This question relates to the Central Board of Revenue and will be answered by my Honourable colleague the Finance Member.

#### STEPS FOR INCLUSION IN CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL ROLLS OF NAMES OF PERSONS IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

70. \*Sir F. E. James: With reference to his reply on the 2nd November, 1944, to my starred question No. 46 regarding the steps to be taken for inclusion in the Central and Provincial electoral rolls of the names of persons in His Majesty's Forces on active service, will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state if any action is being taken in the matter, and, if so, what?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** I can only reply at present that the question raised by the Honourable Member is under the active consideration of the Government of India and the Secretary of State; as soon as a decision is reached I shall inform the Honourable Member.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF RICE IN BIHAR COALFIELDS

71. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state what further information has been received in respect of my starred question 413(c) and question 413(e) of the last November session of the Assembly regarding the distribution of rice in Bihar coalfields?

(b) Is it a fact that although the Bihar Government has reduced the price of rice and agreed to charge the wholesale controlled rate plus four annas per

maund for other charges for rice, with effect from November, 1944, the Joint Pool Authority at Jharia is still continuing to charge members at the old rate in spite of protests?

(c) Will an official enquiry be made into this question and orders passed for the refund of any excess amount charged from the different members of the Pool?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that a large number of mine-owners have protested against the present method of distribution of rice in the Bihar coalfields, and this practice of charging higher rates than the controlled rates, although the Indian Mining Association Rice Administrator has extended the benefit of the reduced rate to all its members?

(e) Have the Government decided finally on the question of the method of distribution of rice and foodgrains in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields through one Central organisation under Government supervision?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) I understand that the deposits received from its members are utilised to finance the operations of the 'POOLS'. The deposit in each case is calculated on the basis of the monthly rice requirements at Rs. 15 per maund.

In one case a non-member was charged Re. 1 per md. extra for not making the required deposit.

(b) and (d). The Provincial Government has no information on this point.

(c) The Provincial Government have received no request for such an enquiry.

(e) From the administrative point of view the present method is the most convenient way of ensuring 100 per cent. supplies to Collieries and no change is considered necessary.

#### HIGHER PRICES CHARGED FOR RICE IN BIHAR COALFIELDS

**72. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that, in spite of his reply to my starred question No. 611(b) on the 20th November, 1944, that the Bihar Government have decided to charge the local wholesale controlled rate plus four annas administrative charge and to bear the resulting loss, the Joint Pool at Jharia is continuing to charge the old rate from its members?

(b) Is it a fact that some mine-owners have lodged protest with the Central Government on this question? If so, what steps have been taken to redress their grievances?

(c) Is it a fact that the General Manager of a large colliery in the Province of Bihar has been committed to the Court of Session by the Magistrate, Dhanbad, to stand his trial under Section 81 of the Defence of India Rules at the instance of the Rationing Officer, Dhanbad, for supply of rice to the miners in excess of the prescribed ratio for the purpose of increasing the output of coal at his colliery?

(d) Is it a fact that the Rationing Officer, Dhanbad, himself on behalf of the Bihar Government was charging and allowing the Joint Pool to charge higher rates over the declared controlled rates during the same period, as admitted by the Honourable Member in reply to my above question?

(e) Will Government consider the desirability of taking necessary steps against the said Rationing Officer, Dhanbad, for violating the rules promulgated under the Ordinance, dated the 9th February, 1944, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, by charging higher rates than the controlled rates of rice?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) and (b). The Bihar Government report that they have received no protest to this effect but I have received one and have asked the Bihar Government for a further report. The matter will be further considered on receipt of their report.

(c) Yes.

(d) Collieries were being charged in excess of control rates for foodgrains prior to November, 1944, under the orders of the Provincial Government.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (d).

## PRICE RATES OF RICE IN BENGAL DISTRICTS

73. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please refer to his statement to this House on November 8, 1944, on prices of rice in Bengal, and indicate if it is correct to assume that the rates quoted against certain districts relate to the headquarters of those districts and not necessarily to the interior?

(b) Has his attention been drawn to the Bengal Government notification regarding price of rice in the districts for the week ending November 1, 1944, published in the issue of the *Calcutta Gazette* of November 9, 1944?

(c) If so, is the Honourable Member aware (i) that in some cases the prices quoted by the Bengal Government for a corresponding period are not in conformity with those furnished by him, (ii) that in Midnapur the price of rice per maund, according to the Honourable Member's statement, is only Rs. 10-10-0 while the rate shown in the Bengal Government schedule is something between Rs. 13-0-11 and Rs. 13-14-7, (iii) that as regards Backerganj Rs. 10-8-0 per maund is the price stated whereas the Bengal Government's quotation is Rs. 12-1-2, (iv) that about Dacca, similarly, the Honourable Member's quotation is Rs. 9-8-0 or Rs. 10-0-0 per maund while the Provincial Government concerned gives it as Rs. 10-7-10 at headquarters and even Rs. 11-0-7 at two of its sub-divisions, Narayanganj and Munshiganj, (v) that for Tippera, again, the Honourable Member's rate is between Rs. 7-8-0 and Rs. 8-0-0 per maund whereas the Bengal Government's price is Rs. 9-8-10 per maund, and (vi) that the rate shown for Chittagong is from Rs. 10-0-0 to Rs. 12-0-0, but according to the Bengal Government this rate is between Rs. 5-15-8 and Rs. 8-0-0 per maund for the same period?

(d) Is it not a fact that since the Honourable Member furnished these rates, the price of rice has persistently gone up, particularly after the declaration of the Centre's decision to discontinue supply to Calcutta?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) No, Sir, they relate to interior markets except in the case of Dacca and Bakarganj, which are for headquarters markets only and in the case of Tippera which are for both headquarters and interior markets.

(b) Yes.

(c) The prices given in the *Calcutta Gazette* are all retail rates, while the statement placed on the table of the House contained quotations of wholesale prices, except in the case of Jalpaiguri and Birbhum, for which the quotations shown were for retail prices. In the latter case, the figures are in agreement with those given in the *Calcutta Gazette*, referred to by the Honourable Member.

(d) No, Sir. In November the average of rice prices in Bengal declined. In December prices dropped in some districts and remained stationary in others, but there was an increase of Re. 1/2/- in the overall wholesale price average, from Rs. 11/3/- to Rs. 12/5/- per maund for coarse rice.

## PRICE RATES OF RICE IN BENGAL DISTRICTS

74. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Has the Honourable the Food Member's attention been drawn to a United Press message, dated December 21, 1944, giving (as published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of December 24, 1944) a joint statement of the President, Munshiganj Bar Association, a Congress leader, and certain office bearers of the local Relief Committee, Food Committee, Krishak Samity and Muslim League, to the effect that the price of rice there had been soaring up since the India Government decided to withdraw its responsibility to supply foodgrains for greater Calcutta, and that the price which came down to Rs. 9-0-0 in November was between Rs. 16-0-0 and Rs. 21-0-0 per maund in December and was daily rising by four annas to eight annas per day?

(b) Has the Honourable Member's attention been also drawn to an Associated Press message, dated Dacca, December 9, 1944, featured in the issue of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of December 17, saying that the Working Committee of the Dacca Relief Committee adopted a resolution (i) regretting that the Honourable the Food Member, Government of India, should have made a statement, as appearing in the Press, to the effect that the highest recorded price of rice

at Dacca was Rs. 12-0-0 per maund while actually the price was much higher, and (ii) that the statement of the Food Member was inaccurate and misleading?

(c) If the answer to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member lay on the table of the House a comprehensive statement fully explaining the position in this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a), (b) and (c). Yes, Sir. I have placed on the table a statement of prices which brings up to date my statement of last November. As to the statement of the working committee of the Dacca Relief Committee, it is not correct to say that I had quoted Rs. 12/- per maund as the highest recorded price at Dacca; all I said was that Rs. 12/- per maund was the highest price during the month.

Dacca			Dacca		
Date	As per district authority (Coarse rice) (Wholesale) Rs. A. P.	Calcutta Gazette (Common rice) (Retail)	Date	As per district authority (Coarse rice) (Wholesale) Rs. A. P.	Calcutta Gazette (Common rice) (Retail)
1-11-44	9 8 0		16-11-44	...	
2-11-44	9 8 0		17-11-44	10 8 0	
3-11-44	9 8 0		18-11-44	12 0 0	
4-11-44	10 0 0	Week ending 8th Nov. 1944	19-11-44	12 0 0	
5-11-44	10 0 0	Rs. 11-0-7	20-11-44	11 0 0	Week ending 22nd Nov. 1944
6-11-44	10 0 0		21-11-44	10 8 0	Rs. 13-1-0
7-11-44	10 0 0		22-11-44	12 0 0	
8-11-44	10 0 0		23-11-44	12 0 0	
9-11-44	10 0 0		24-11-44	11 0 0	
10-11-44	10 0 0		25-11-44	12 0 0	
11-11-44	10 0 0		26-11-44	11 0 0	
12-11-44	...	Week ending 15th Nov. 1944	27-11-44	11 0 0	
13-11-44	11 0 0	Rs. 11-6-10	28-11-44	...	Week ending 29th Nov. 1944
14-11-44	11 0 0		29-11-44	...	
15-11-44	10 8 0		30-11-44	11 0 0	Rs. 12-1-2

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO DISCONTINUE SUPPLY OF RICE TO CALCUTTA**

**75. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether the Central Government's decision to discontinue supply of rice to Calcutta was arrived at after consultation with the Government of Bengal?

(b) What opinion, if any, was expressed by the Government of Bengal on the matter after this decision was announced?

(c) Is it a fact that several representations on this issue have been made by the Government of Bengal to the Central Government? If so, will the Honourable Member please make a detailed statement giving the substance of these representations as also indicating the action taken on them?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of Bengal intimated some time ago that there was a surplus stock of rice in the Province which they were in a position to export from Bengal? If so, will the Honourable Member please make a detailed statement on this proposal?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) The Honourable Member in his question does not correctly describe the decision which was announced during the last Session of the Legislature and publicly repeated by me at a Press Conference, but it is a fact that the Government of Bengal were informed of our intention before it was made.

(b) and (c). No representation has been received from the Bengal Government.

(d) No Sir, the Government of Bengal have not declared any surplus in rice.

**PURCHASING OF DELHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND TRACTION COMPANY**

**76. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to refer to his reply to my starred question No. 419 on the 15th November, 1944, and state whether any decision has been arrived at in regard to the

question of the Government exercising their option to purchase the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company, Limited, on the expiry of their present licence?

(b) If it has been decided to exercise this option, has the required notice been served on the Company?

(c) In the event of the undertaking being taken over by Government, what will be the machinery for running it in future?

(d) In case it has been decided not to exercise the aforesaid option, will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a detailed statement of the reasons for such decision?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) and (b). It is understood that the Chief Commissioner has decided to serve a notice on the Company of the intimation of Government to exercise their option to purchase, but that the notice has not yet been served.

(c) No decision has yet been taken.

(d) Does not arise.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF LIBERATED BURMA

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

(a) how much area of Burma has now been liberated by the Allied Forces;

(b) how it is administered, whether the Emigre Burma Government has anything to do with its administration, or the reconquered territory is under military rule; and

(c) whether the Emigre Burma Government will now take up their residence somewhere in Burma or not?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) About one-third.

(b) The South East Asia Command are responsible for the administration of the re-occupied territories of Burma.

(c) As the length of the period during which the re-occupied parts of Burma will have to be under military administration will depend on operational necessities, it is not possible to say when the Government of Burma will be able to move back to their own country.

#### BHORE COMMITTEE INTERIM REPORT, ETC.

**78. \*Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether the Bhore Committee has prepared any *interim* report? If so, will the Honourable Member lay the same on the floor of the House or supply a copy to the Library of the House?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India brought in medical experts to advise Government about the future planning of public health and medical education?

(c) Did these experts write any report? If so, will Government lay this report on the table or put it in the Library of the House?

(d) In case no report has been prepared, will Government be pleased to state the purpose of their visit and the cost to the public funds?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) to (d). At the request of the Health Survey and Development Committee the Government invited seven experts from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia and Russia to visit India to assist the Committee. The visitors were not asked to write a report but to give oral evidence before the Committee. The approximate cost is Rs. 80,000.

#### DECOMPOSED ATTA IN DACCA GOVERNMENT GODOWN

**79. \*Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is not a fact that 42,000 maunds of decomposed *atta* lying in the Government godown in Dacca has been recommended by the District Food Committee?

(b) Why was it allowed to decompose?

(c) For how long was it kept stocked?

(d) Are the Government of India aware of the shortage of atta in several parts of India during the years 1943 and 1944?

(e) Is it not a fact that the same material was offered for sale by the Government?

(f) Is it not a fact that the Civil Supplies Department invited tenders for the purchase of the stock at a reduced rate?

(g) Is it not a fact that no purchaser came forward?

(h) Would the Government of India take necessary steps to stop the sale of such stuff for consumption by the civilian public?

**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.

#### ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS TO PROVINCES FOR LAND IMPROVEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL LOANS

**80. \*Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if the Government of India has advanced any amount of money to the Provinces for land improvement and agricultural loans;

(b) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what is the amount allotted to each of the Provinces for the last three years;

(c) if the Government of India exercises any control and keeps supervision over the Department of the Provincial Government dealing with the land improvement and agricultural loans; and

(d) if the Government of India gets reports from the Provinces as to how the Provinces are helping the agriculturists by their liberal administration of the agricultural loans?

**Mr. J. D. Tyson:** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

(c) and (d). Progress reports are received from time to time from provinces Officers from the Centre when they can find time for the purpose examine the works carried out with the aid of loans and grants from the Centre.

#### *Statement showing the loans sanctioned by the Government of India during 1943-44 and 1944-45 to the Provinces for food production schemes*

Name of the Province or State	1943-44	1944-45
	Rs.	Rs.
Ajmer-Merwara . . . . .	...	2,34,250
Assam . . . . .	9,01,867	10,86,100
Baluchistan . . . . .	...	1,66,400
Bengal . . . . .	62,15,000	23,15,000
Bihar . . . . .	...	9,64,000
Bombay . . . . .	3,00,000	8,22,500
C. P. and Berar . . . . .	39,50,000	31,18,970
Madras . . . . .	45,00,000	16,25,000
N. W. F. P. . . . .	...	12,74,000
Orissa . . . . .	5,77,300	14,67,600
Total	1,64,44,167	1,30,73,820

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

##### ASSISTANCE TO SPECTACLES GOODS FIRMS

**2. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state with reference to his answer to my Starred Question No. 572, asked on the 20th November, 1944, regarding assistance given to a number of firms, the progress those firms have been able to make? What is the approximate number of spectacles frames, lenses and cases made by each firm per month?

(b) Have electric power and iron sheets been released to Messrs. Mumick, New Delhi, or not? If not, why not?

(c) Is the firm of Messrs. Kundan Lal Ram Lal of Amritsar, dealers in celluloid or manufacturers of spectacles goods? Have they got any factory of their own?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The information is not available with Government at present but enquiries are being made.

(b) Recommendation has been made to the appropriate authority for the supply of electric power to Messrs. Mumick. A licence for iron sheets has been issued.

(c) *First part:* Messrs. Kundanlal Ramlal are really dealers in synthetic resins and manufacturers of plastic bangles. It is regretted that the information given in respect of this firm on the 20th November, 1944, was incorrect. *Second part:* So far as Government are aware, they have got a factory for the manufacture of plastic bangles.

#### FOOD PARCELS EXPORTED TO ENGLAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES

**3. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the maximum weight of food parcels allowed by the Government to be exported to England and other countries as gift parcels? What is the average number of such parcels exported by post per week?

(b) What are the reasons for allowing export of food from India? Does the Honourable Member propose to take necessary steps to prohibit such export and to prevent deaths by starvations in his own country?

(c) Is it a fact that more than lbs. 1,000 food is being sent from New Delhi per day per parcel post to England?

**The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** (a) 5 lb. including packing. Statistics showing the total number per week are not maintained.

(b) The matter has been carefully considered and I came to the conclusion that the additional supplies of essential foods which would be made available by prohibiting the sending of parcels did not make such an order advisable.

(c) No, Sir.

#### IMPORT DUTY ON INDIAN GOODS IN KASHMIR

**4. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether there is any customs duty on goods manufactured in India and imported in Kashmir State? If there is import duty on Indian made goods in Kashmir, have the Government of India imposed similar duty on goods manufactured in Kashmir? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The answer to the second part is in the negative.

As regards the third part, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by the Honourable Sir James Grigg to part (c) of starred question No. 195 on the 10th February 1938.

#### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO ENFORCE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND TO RECALL THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice of a motion of adjournment from Mr. Lalchand Navalrai who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, neglect in not adopting stern economic and other sanctions against South Africa for segregation and degradation of Indians. I have received notices also from other Honourable Members on the same subject. Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh wishes to discuss the failure of the Government of India to impose the same disabilities as regards travel and residence on the nationals of non-Indian origin of South Africa as are imposed on Indians there. He also wishes to discuss by another motion the abstention of the Government of India from enforcing economic sanctions against South Africa at the behest of His Majesty's Government. Also, Mr. Raza Ali wishes to raise the question of censuring the Government of India for their failure to recall the High Commissioner for India from South Africa

12 Noon.

and to enforce the economic sanctions against that country under the Reciprocity Act; also for the Government of India's insistence on sending a successor to Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan in spite of the pronounced opinion expressed by the Natal Indian Congress to the contrary.

Does Mr. Lalchand Navalrai wish to move his motion?

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Yes, Sir.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is there any objection to the motion being moved?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare** (Member for Commonwealth Relations): None whatever, Sir.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On all these motions the questions raised are substantially the same, *viz.*, the measures that the Government of India have taken or should have taken to meet the situation that has arisen in Natal in respect of Indians settled there. So I will allow all the questions raised in these different motions to be discussed on this motion of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.

**Mr. M. Ghiasuddin** (Punjab: Landholders): Sir, I submit that the time will be too short today and Government should allot a separate day.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): These motions all refer to the same subject-matter and there cannot be different adjournment motions. The motion will be taken up at 4 o'clock today.

#### NOMINATION OF THE PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the House that under sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I nominate Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. K. C. Neogy and Sir Henry Richardson on the Panel of Chairmen for the current Session.

#### COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to announce that under sub-order (1) of Standing Order 80 of the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders the following Honourable Members will form the Committee on Petitions, namely: (1) Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, (2) Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, (3) Mr. N. M. Joshi, (4) Sardar Sant Singh.

According to the provision of the same Standing Order the Deputy President will be the Chairman of the Committee.

#### RESOLUTION RE NATIONAL WAR FRONT—*contd.*

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion of the Resolution moved by Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan on the subject of the National War Front.

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed** (Member for Information and Broadcasting): Sir, perhaps it may be useful if I intervene in this discussion at this early stage. Since the Resolution was tabled I felt that a question was involved which required much more detailed consideration than could be given in a debate of this nature. I have already taken up this question with very anxious consideration and its examination will take a little time; but I am anxious to reach a final decision as early as possible, and I propose to announce the decision certainly in the first week of March, so that the House may be in a position to know what that decision is. I hope in the circumstances the Honourable Mover will perhaps accept my assurance and withdraw the Resolution.

**Sardar Sant Singh** (West Punjab: Sikh): May I know if an official day will be given to discuss his announcement?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** It may be taken up on another non-official day instead of today.

**Several Honourable Members:** No, no.

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** Then I am afraid it will be a little later. I am not sure, but the decision may satisfy Honourable Members and the question may not arise. But if it does not, perhaps a full opportunity will be given during the discussion on the Finance Bill.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Before the Honourable Member comes to any decision I think the House should have a chance of expressing its views. At present he does not know what we have got to say about this.

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** Perhaps my Honourable friend has not understood the position. I said that the matter is very important and must be considered by me and the Government. The Government is looking into it anxiously and we propose to place our decision before the House. The responsibility is ours and we would be happy to have the opinion of the House after the decision has been arrived at.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** In view of the assurance given by the Honourable Member, the House will be too glad to find his announcement acceptable to the House and the country at large. What we generally find is that Government announcements are not acceptable to that extent to which the Honourable Member thinks that they are acceptable. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that he should give us the assurance that in case the announcement is not acceptable, or requires some modification or amendment, he will appoint an official day for the House to discuss the matter in detail.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum** (North-West Frontier Province: General): The best way out is to let the matter stand over because the Government of India wants time to come to a decision. The House will then know what the Government's decision is, and this matter can be taken up again if the Government decision is not favourable.

**Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): What I understood from the statement of the Honourable the Leader of the House is this: that the Government . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are other Resolutions the order of which has been determined by ballot. That is another difficulty. So some other means will have to be found.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee** (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): This will have to be taken up on an official day.

**Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan:** I was going to submit that it appears from the statement of the Honourable Member in charge of this particular Department that the Government have been examining the position very carefully, and I understand actively, but they are not yet in a position to tell the House as to what the decision of the Government is with regard to this matter, i.e., with regard to the Department of National War Front and its activities. The Honourable Member has given an assurance to the House that the Government decision will be made known at the latest by the first week in March, and I suppose he has fixed this date so that the House may not be deprived of having a discussion on that decision. The House could take it up either during the budget discussion by means of a cut motion or in the discussion on the Finance Bill. I think that is the reason why the Honourable Member says by the first week of March he will be able to tell us of the Government decision. I do not think we can adjourn the discussion because there are so many other non-official Resolutions and they will have to be taken up. The only thing is this, that after all this is being discussed on a non-official day. We still have another day for non-official Resolutions. If we do not have it during the budget discussion all of us could ballot the Reso-

lution again. So that means the time we are saving today will be used up later on, unless out of the goodness of their heart, which is very seldom round . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** Always found!

**Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan:** . . . they will give us an official day for the discussion of this matter. It is quite possible, as it has happened in the past, that on some particular day when the Government has no business, the House has to adjourn before time. In that case the Government should be able to allot that time for the discussion of this matter. So I do not think there will be any difficulty, provided the Honourable Member was really willing to accommodate the House, and the House I am sure will be willing to accommodate the Government on this question.

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** So far as I am concerned there will be no difficulty at all. I am very anxious to come to a definite decision before the first week of March and place the decision before the House. It will be open to the House to examine the decision arrived at by the Government and take such steps as the House considers necessary.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The point is, will Government allow a day?

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** I do not think we can say that at present because there are so many actions that may be taken by the opposite side—one is by moving a cut motion: the other on the Finance Bill. They will either be satisfied or not. If they are satisfied the matter ends. If they are not satisfied, there are plenty of opportunities of condemning the Government, or censuring the Government or advising the Government.

**Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan:** The Honourable Member has suggested that this matter may be discussed when the House is considering the Finance Bill. Well, if this matter is discussed during that period, the House will take longer to discuss the Finance Bill. So it means the Government's time will have to be utilised for that purpose, but if we are allowed another two or three hours for this purpose, the time will be saved.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Where the time is being wasted is in discussing how to do it!

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House may give leave to the Honourable Member. But I do not know whether the Honourable Member wants to withdraw it.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai** (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In terms of money this is a colossal waste and the House must know by detailed discussion whether the farce of these meetings, organized day to day and where nobody attends but a few hired clerks, is to end. That is the issue before the House. This War Front is not going to be dissolved by a mere scheme. Unless the Honourable Member says that what has happened is wrong and that therefore it is a matter of reorganizing it on a very small scale so that the taxpayers may not suffer, I think the discussion had better proceed.

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** My Honourable friend wants me to surrender to the Resolution and say that all that has happened is wrong and that a new scheme is going to be worked out. I am doing nothing of the kind. The stage may come for the House to express views as strongly as it likes, or there may be no such stage.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then the debate will go on. Is the Honourable Member not going to press it?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): He has moved it.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): To me the proposal of the Honourable the Leader of the House seems to be quite feasible and I think I should have accepted this statement and withdrawn my Resolution.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot do it except with the leave of the House.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Yes, I want the leave of the House.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sardar Mangal Singh.

**Sardar Mangal Singh** (East Punjab: Sikh): I get up to support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Yamin Khan. Of all the hoaxes that have been played by this Government during the war this hoax of a National War Front is probably the greatest. So far as its national aspect is concerned . . . . .

**Kunwer Hajee Ismaiel Alikhan** (Nominated Non-Official): I rise to a point of order. Sir, when the Honourable the Mover of the motion is ready to withdraw his motion, I do not understand why the question has not been put. . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member was not perhaps quite definite that he wanted to withdraw the motion.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** I said that, but I know that unless the House allows unanimously. . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If there has been any misunderstanding let him say now what he wants. I will allow him.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Yes, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw the motion?

**Some Honourable Members:** No, no.

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

**Sardar Mangal Singh:** Sir, this National War Front is neither national, nor has it got anything to do with any war front. It is sought to create the impression abroad that India is fully participating in this war. This National Front is a collection of 'jo hukums'. Some jobs have been found for Government friends, and the money has been spent in advertisements mostly to pay handsomely to the friendly newspapers in this country. This National War Front has not created any impression in the country. Meetings have been held under its name by District Magistrates and other Magistrates and efforts have been made to show that the public is co-operating with this Government, but this National War Front stunt has fallen flat on the country. It has not done anything useful. As a matter of fact, the Government themselves feel that this National War Front is useless. So far as I am aware, the Railway Department has already taken some steps to liquidate the 'Travel Less' campaign carried on by the National War Front; it has already been suspended or stopped altogether. The Government has already begun to feel that this National War Front should be voluntarily liquidated and the process has already started. But I wish to warn the House that the Government wants to do the same thing under a different name. They are probably thinking of organising a huge propaganda machine to reach the masses under a different section of the department of my Honourable friend, the Member for Information and Broadcasting. I wish to warn the House that if the name is changed from National War Front to 'Rural Publicity Bureau' or something like that, the House should not accept that. It is only to benefit their friends—to give jobs to those who have already been employed in this department—and to mislead the masses that the Government is doing this and that for them, and also to convey an impression abroad that Government is carrying on a huge programme of post-war reconstruction for the benefit of the masses. The idea is to side-track attention of the country from the central political issue to other less important economic issues, and, therefore, I would ask the House to pass this Resolution and persuade the Government to discontinue this National War Front from next year.

The Honourable the Leader of the House has announced that he will give his decision in the 1st week of March, but the point is whether Government is going to make any provision in their budget proposals. If that is so, the Government will have to take a decision earlier than that. The Budget will

be introduced in this House on the 28th of February and the Finance Member must make up his mind by the middle of February on the question of whether he is going to run the show or shut it up. And therefore the proposal of the Leader of the House that the Government will come to a decision in March does not appeal to me. I therefore ask the Honourable Members in this House to pass this Resolution and tell the Government definitely that the country does not want this National War Front, and that the country thinks that the money spent on this National War Front is a waste of the tax-payers money and it could be spent usefully in some other direction.

Sir, I support the Resolution.

**Mr. M. Ghiasuddin** (Punjab: Landholders): Mr. President. In view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Leader of the House I have to ask him: a few questions if he will kindly give his attention to what I am saying. First of all, I believe that the Government of India are as anxious to prosecute the present war as they ever were and if they intend doing so, I suppose they will have to mobilize the public opinion in this country for the prosecution of the war. From his announcement today it appears that they are thinking of liquidating this National War Front movement. . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** Sir, I have said nothing of the kind.

**An Honourable Member:** That was an implication.

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** All that I have said is that the matter is under active and anxious consideration of the department and I will be able to announce my decision some time in the first week of March, and the House will have ample opportunity of considering that scheme and condemning us or accepting it as it pleases.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** I understand. . . . .

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

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** I might add that Government would be prepared to give two or three hours any day they want.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** May I have leave. . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member cannot go on like that.

**Mr. M. Ghiasuddin:** I could not catch what the Honourable Member said definitely, but anyhow if this movement is to be liquidated I hope the Government will consider the points which I am going to lay before the House. First of all, I would say that the Government have to mobilize the public opinion in this country for the successful prosecution of the war and if so they will have to devise a machinery for doing so. For instance first we come to the question of recruitment.

As I understand, one of the functions of this National War Front movement is to procure recruits for the various defence services. As we know, there is no conscription in this country, and somehow or other the people have to be induced or asked to join the defence services. Of course, Government will have to keep that machinery, under whatever name it may be. Of course some of the people say that the only reason why people join the army is the mercenary reason. If that had been so, naturally in the areas where poverty is greater, like Bengal and so on, the people would have joined the army; but that is not so. People have joined because they believe in the cause and because they have been induced by organisations like the National War Front movement to do so.

Another purpose of this movement has been, asking the people to invest their money in the various war loans or to contribute to war funds. I suppose the Government will still have to have a machinery for doing so.

Thirdly, the National War Front movement has been rendering services for contradicting the rumours spread by enemy agents, and contradicting the propaganda carried on by the enemy radio. May I ask if the Government are going to leave the field clear for these enemy agents? Again this movement has proved very useful as a connecting link between the various leaders, for

[Mr. M. Ghiasuddin]  
instance, in putting down black market activities and things like that. As we know, the literacy in our country is very low, and some sort of connecting link is required. In other countries you just put some advertisements in the papers and they reach everybody; but here in this country the people do not read papers because they are not literate, and so some sort of organisation is required to carry the message as regards putting down the activities of black markets and the like, and this function has been fulfilled by the national war front organisation. Furthermore, I would say that in most countries where literacy is greater and where there is conscription and all that, organisations like the national war front do exist. I do not know what decision the Government is going to take, but if they are going to liquidate this movement, I think they will have to provide for all these points I have raised, in some form or other. Therefore, I do hope that all these considerations will be taken note of, if it is decided to liquidate the movement.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, when Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan. . . .

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan**: I want to withdraw the Resolution if the House will allow it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order: the Honourable Member cannot go on like that: he has already spoken.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande**: I am on my legs. When Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, who has been a supporter of the Government for a long time, comes forward with a Resolution to abolish this department, it is clear that there is something rotten in the state of Denmark. I say it is a national fraud. Only a national government can establish a national war front. Let us examine the background of this national war front. Mr. Griffiths was first appointed as the head of this national war front—he is not here and so I cannot attack him much. If he had tried this sort of thing in Ireland, he would not have been allowed inside Ireland by the De Valera Government to preach these ideas of his there: for he is not only anti-national but anti-Congress and anti-Indian. After drinking a lot of tea at Rs. 4,000 a month in the tea gardens, he was imported into this front. . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not go on making personal reflections.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande**: He was brought here and one of his activities was being director of this national war front.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum**: The Honourable Member is dealing with the assistant.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande**: His assistant was one Mr. Bierman—I do not know who this Bierman was—no one knows who this man is; then there was one Mrs. Robinson who was perhaps originally an Indian missionary. Who these gentlemen of the national war front, drawing three or four thousand rupees a month, are we do not know. Then there was another economist there—Dr. Thomas, who in sheer disgust resigned from this organisation, finding that it is a liars' organisation: he resigned from it as it was telling lies, lies and lies all the time. That does not suit a national organisation or any organisation; the truth will come out at last, however much you may suppress it or oppress it or depress it. Only patriots like Jawaharlal Nehru can call the people to arms.

Now something about the meetings of the Front. I attended one meeting from a distance and there was a song sung there. (*An Honourable Member*: "Did you attend it?") I was just there—I happened to be passing that side—it was in Delhi—and a meeting of the national war front was going on and a song was being sung there. It has been said that the army is not mercenary. I will reproduce the song in Hindustani as it was sung there:

*Aja aja re rangroot.*

*Ghar men tere dāl na daliyā, yahān mile biskoot.*

*Ghar men tere joota na chappal, yahān mile phul boot.*

*Ghar men tere lata na kapra, yahān mile phul soot.*

Who can deny that it is not a mercenary appeal, to say "You have not enough food at home and Government will give you biscuits: you have no shoe or chappals at home and here you will get a full boot; you have no dress at your home and here you will get a full dress". Is this not a mercenary appeal? If Jawahar Lal Nehru were to appeal to the people, he would appeal to their honour, their liberty and their hearts.

**An Honourable Member:** How many people attended the meeting?

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** There were some 10 or 12 persons there, some half naked persons and a *dholak* was being tomtommed in a corner of the Jumna bank—I had gone for a walk and I saw this thing going on and I just stopped for a few minutes and heard these songs. Under nationalism, you call people to arms by saying their honour and their liberty is at stake and their country is at stake and therefore they must come. There was also a European standing there—I do not know whether it was Mr. Phillips, who said the Indian army was mercenary, or somebody else. But the songs sung at the national war front meeting show that it is absolutely mercenary and that this is purely a *dalals'* association, as I will prove. They fix a quota—give this much to this newspaper and that much to that—and take so much from the kisans and the zemindars. This national war front fixes the quota and then the police and the revenue officials go and loot the peasants. I am a personal victim of this national war front. I happen to be a zemindar in Budaun district; I was imprisoned and my *karinda* took the revenue to the Tehsil; the national war front fixed a quota of 12½ per cent. of the revenue to be paid into the Treasury. My *karinda* took the revenue to the treasury. Then the Tahsildar and other treasury officials squeezed money and they deducted money for the National War Front. He was told 'You must pay so much or no receipt will be given'. I was in prison. So my *karinda* was frightened and he laid to pay that amount after borrowing it. He took the receipt. When I came out of the prison I protested to the Collector. I said: You can take hold of my village. Government can confiscate my property but I cannot pay anything. Now, of course, I am relieved from the payment. Now they deduct two annas for every rupee from the kisans because that is the quota fixed by the *dalals'* association—this National War Front. This amount is forcibly taken from every kisan. I was in my zamindari the other day. The kisans said 'why don't you take from Maharaj ji'. That is what they call me. The *patwari* said: "Either go to jail like him or give 2 annas. That was the reply given to the kisans. This National War Front is playing havoc all over the country. All the people now know that this a small *tamasha* created by *jo hukms* and *ji huzurs*. All these anti-nationalists gather under this flag and their propaganda is intended to deceive America, China, Russia and other countries and show them that Indians are united together under the National War Front. Their propaganda is. Eat less, spend less, travel less, talk less but give more money to the War Front—everything less, but more money to the War Front. This is the propaganda going on everywhere. The Leader of the House said that he does not know how much money is being given to the newspapers. Of course, the greatest fraud and bribery in the political history of India,—the case of M. N. Roy—has been exposed in this House. There are some papers in my division which are being given money. The *Pataka* is being given about Rs. 4,000 a year. It is a small paper with a tiny circulation or no circulation at all. Then there are some papers in Naini Tal and Kashipur which are being given 6,000. Then there is a paper called *Naya Zamana* which is being given Rs. 10,000. Then the *Vanguard* was paid Rs. 36,000. So the money is being squandered like anything on newspapers which have no circulation, no clientele and no subscribers. Only we read the other day that 9 lakhs was sanctioned for economical planning which is going to be started. Nowadays planning is in the air. There are plans for the economic development of the country, plans for improving public health, introducing universal education and more and more plans are being discussed all over the country. Nine lakhs have recently been sanctioned for this propaganda work for this Planning

[Mr. Badri Dutt Pande]

Reconstruction Committee. Sir A. Dalal is not telling us anything here but outside this House he says that a national Government is coming. For his department nine lakhs have been sanctioned the other day under the head of National War Front. This is a huge fraud and waste of money. Sir Yamin Khan has done a public service and he should not withdraw his Resolution. Only yesterday we discussed the Public Accounts Committee report and we know what sort of things are going on, how one crore or 90 lakhs of the taxpayers' money is being spent on nothing at all. There are so many newspapers which can take up the job. It is high time that this great hoax is liquidated and liquidated in time and relief is given to the taxpayer. I say that this sort of fraud should not occur in this country in any shape or form.

**Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall** (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadian): At the very outset I should say that I am opposing this Resolution. Of course it sounds surprising. I am opposing the Resolution but I am opposing the Honourable the Leader of the House's intention also. He is also in a way supporting the Resolution.

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** I have never supported the Resolution in a way or two ways or three ways.

**Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** When the Leader of the House said that he is considering it, it seemed that he may be able to meet the wishes of the Honourable Member the mover of the resolution and so keep the Resolution in abeyance and the necessity of moving it may be avoided. So I thought in a way he was supporting it. Some sort of support came from Mr. Ghiasuddin. So, both from the point of view of the supporter and the opposer, it has been made amply clear that this War Front exists only in name. From the facts that came out from the lips of Mr. Pande, it is not so much harmful. It also seems that it could not have had much effect as was feared, because there were only 10 or 12 persons at the meeting. If nobody attends the meeting, then it does not carry any impression with the people. As my friend Sardar Mangal Singh said, it exists only in order to create the impression that India is fully participating in the war. It has been proved all over the world how India is participating in the war. It does not help us to say that it is not at all participating in the war. Neither is it right to say that it is fully participating in the war. The situation is more clear to people outside India than it is for us. Some of us think that the Americans are in the dark about the position in India. Some think that the English people are in the dark—at least the general masses of England—as to the situation in India. But perhaps they know much more of our condition than we know ourselves what we are. And it is quite clear how India is participating in the war. Of course, those who are in authority either in India or in England know that there is really one India which is not participating in the war and with which they want to come to terms somehow and they also know that there is another India which is fully participating in the war and the members of which are fighting amongst themselves and vying with each other to go to the war front. My Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh and perhaps my Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh, who is laughing in his seat, are very cautious about this. My Honourable friend Mr. Ghiasuddin is also cautious about this. If the question is raised that all people from all provinces should be allowed to go to the army, then they will come up and say that people from non-martial provinces should not be enlisted in the army. It is the birth-right of the Punjabees only to be enlisted in the army.

**Mr. M. Ghiasuddin:** We have never said that.

**Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** They always say that they are the martial people and it is their privilege to be in the army and it should be a matter of pride to them only to help the war. But when he has to speak in this House he would say that we should not go to the war, surely then it is convenient for him to conclude that India is not participating in the war. You know in your heart of hearts how you are making India participate in this war. Thus, the actual state of affairs is more clear to the people outside than it is to us because each

one of us is trying to put a curtain on the eyes of others. But the hiding of facts will not help us. So far as this national war front is concerned, you are quite clear in your hearts that it is an innocent thing. If I were to advance my arguments, the Leader of the House will be more inclined to shut up this show. In the Railway Central Advisory Committee the question of publicity was under discussion and some of the Members there said that as it was serving no useful purpose, it should be stopped. I advanced the argument that at least some thousands of rupees go into the pockets of our countrymen who are engaged in the newspaper business and therefore it should be continued. Of all the arguments that were advanced there, I think this was the one which appealed the most, and we understand that perhaps there may be no expenditure under this head in the coming Budget. I think I will be justified in advancing the same argument here. When you are quite clear in your mind that no harm can be done by this national war front, why are you so busy about it and ask the Government to stop it especially when at least a crore of rupees goes to the pockets of needy persons. You can see in the districts what class of persons are enrolled in this department.

I have got another argument in support of this war front and I am sure it will go home to the Leader of the House and he will come sooner rather than later to the decision. My argument may even be accepted by him. I quite appreciate that there are some persons who in ordinary times would have engaged themselves in communal warfare and in fighting on fronts where we would not like them to be. They may have even been doing the work of pickpockets. At least these elements are utilised in speaking to the people that it is our war and that we should go to the war front; we should give subscriptions for the prosecution of the war and so on. It has been said that only 10 persons attend the meetings of the national war front. But if the pockets of needy persons are filled even to the tune of one crore of rupees, what does it matter to the Government of India or to you? After all, it is the rate-payer's money and the men who are paid are our men. So, in no way the money is wasted. I am afraid the very force of my argument will fall through if you take it in that light and perhaps the Government may come to the decision to stop it sooner than later. That is my fear. For that reason I oppose this Resolution and I would ask my friend to withdraw it and leave the things as they are and even wait for the decision of the Government to abolish this war front. If my friend Mr Hosmani is so much eager to speak something in this House, I will ask him to speak outside this House against this war front, which he and his Party know is practically nothing. By this means, they help in some way the needy persons of the country, who tell the people to go to the war and help the prosecution of the war. You are helping the war all the same. My Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh has condemned it, but would he ask the members of his constituency not to go to the war and stay at home? He will not say that. People must go to the war and they are going to the war. So, what does it matter if some people are engaged to do this propaganda work. These people would have been harmful if they were not engaged in this harmless task. So, let them remain where they are. You have yourselves admitted that it produces no effect because no serious-minded people attend these meetings. The serious people know the conditions of the war and they do not mind at all this propaganda. These people are going about with some loud speakers and sing some beautiful songs to the people and ask the people to help the war. So, what does it matter to you if they do this singing business and ask people to join the war. At least, they save the society from some mischief which they would have otherwise done. I know that there are some persons who were in ordinary times always busy in communal warfares and engaging themselves in scrambles of religious nature. These people have been engaged in this national war front.

My last point is that in these Government bodies we find people really on one front. From that point of view, if you ask the Muslim League to take up a task they would say that they must have Pakistan first even for doing this propa-

[Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall.]

ganda work. If you ask the Congress to do this work, they will say that they must have their Hindustan first. If we are at all to do anything, we must have some alliance. So, there should be an allied national government even to do this propaganda work. At least so far as the present Government is concerned, there is no alliance and there is no treaty of any kind, but they are doing things at least as one front. If they are engaging your own men without any label of Pakistan or Hindustan or Sikhistan, who are telling people to go to the war, at least there is one front. I think that one front should not be disturbed. In

1 P.M. spite of disagreement of so many kinds among themselves, if people could join together and engage themselves at least in one front, that is, even in asking the people to go and help the British in fighting the war successfully, then that would be of immense help to this country. Let people come together even in the name of helping war effort and thereby become one nation at least on this front. The difficulty is people refuse to come together, some want Pakistan, some others want independence, while yet others want Sikhistan and so on. I say let the Pakistanis, the Hindustanis, the Independencewallahs, let all these come together, let there be no different labels, let there be one united party in the name of at least war effort. When Government are doing some service in bringing irreconcilables together, namely, bringing all parties together in the National War Front, it is a service which should be appreciated. Sir, I oppose the Resolution.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Sir, I should like Honourable Members to take their minds back to the year when the War Front was founded. It was sometimes in 1942. Then, in this country, as now, there were two main schools of thought; there were other schools of thought also but there were only two main schools of thought. There was the one school that honestly and sincerely believed that to help war efforts in India would lead us faster on the path to self-government in this country than anything else we could do to attain the goal of our ambition. There was another school of thought, very vocal, very powerful who, perhaps sincerely, believed that the quickest way to Swaraj was to oppose the war efforts in every possible way, to oppose everything that could be done in this country to fight the war. It may be that at the back of their minds they felt that any help given to the War Front, any action on their part which would show that they were in favour of the war might be an exhibition of complacency in the political situation.

Those were the two schools of thought; the one, I admit was very powerful, it had a machine from which it could voice its opinions. The other was scattered all over the country, belonged to all parties, sometimes to no Party at all, but their efforts could not be co-ordinated so as to make them felt in the country. It was these people who were determined to help the War efforts, let me tell my Honourable friends with just as patriotic motives as others, believing, I will repeat, that the best method of attaining the goal of the ambition of this country was to help the war efforts. It was these people who felt that some machinery should be brought into existence.

I am giving away no secret when I say that it was mooted in the National Defence Council and this National War Front was set up. The Government were asked to give their assistance. The idea was that the National War Front in several provinces should be run by non-officials, that machinery should be set up whereby all over India the efforts of these people could be co-ordinated and some results could be achieved. Surely, there was nothing very wrong in trying to do one's best, to place one's own opinion before the public. These people felt that great harm was being done to this country, inside this country and outside this country by this continual exhibition of active and passive opposition to war efforts. If they asked that machinery should be set up whereby they could carry on their efforts, was there anything very wrong in that?

I heard this morning from my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh that it was a waste of money. Perhaps an honest opinion. I quite agree that it was a waste of money, because it was machinery set up to fight the opinion

which my Honourable friend held. He was against war effort, he was against doing every thing that would help the Government to fight the war. Naturally from his point of view, it was a waste of money. Then, another Honourable Member said that it was a machine created to utter lies throughout the country. I quite understand his point of view. According to him, everything said by those who were supporting war efforts were lies. Naturally these were lies in his eyes. But let us admit that there has been a substantial support for war efforts, which has done the greatest good to this country and which is likely to yield better results than any other political move by any party in India.

**Mr. Abdul Quaiyum:** Question.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** I have not the slightest doubt that you will question it. All your past actions have shown that you question it. But what are the results? What is the political position in this country today? I do not want to go into all these details. Since the Honourable Member interrupted me, I will put a simple issue before him. There can be only one test. If the Honourable Member's efforts and the efforts of his Party have been the right efforts and in the right direction, then the political position in this country ought to have been satisfactory and you ought to say that you are satisfied with the political position. But if you say that the political position in this country today is most unsatisfactory, then the logical conclusion is that the efforts of your great party have been unsuccessful and have set back the hands of the clock. That is the only conclusion you can come to. I did not want to say all this. But the Honourable Member's interruption provoked me. Mr. President, I am firmly of the belief that the one road that will lead India to Self-government is wholehearted support in the war efforts of our country. Every action taken which distracts the minds of our people from the war efforts is leading us away from the goal of our ambition, your ambition and the ambition of every Indian on this side of this House. And if we feel, and feel strongly, that the one method of attaining that goal is the method we advocate and if we feel that the methods adopted by some have been wrong and have set back the hands of the clock and have done this country great harm and injury, we have a right to say so; and if this is the psychological moment let us say so boldly. Let prestige be set aside; let unpopularity or the threat of unpopularity be relegated to the waste paper basket. Popularity is not everything; the applause of the masses is not everything; there is only one thing that we must aim at and that is the final good of this country, the prosperity, happiness and contentment of the millions of its people. That is the only goal that we should try to achieve, and if prestige or popularity will come in the way of our admitting our own mistakes, then God help us. Do not let us run down the efforts, however fruitless they may have been, of these who conscientiously believed that their methods would lead us to the goal of our ambition. I do not speak for the whole of India, I have no experience of the National War Front outside my own province. There may have been mistakes made. Indeed the Honourable Mover of the Resolution said very clearly that when the National War Front was brought into existence it was necessary. I have carefully read the whole of his speech since it is now in print; it was in support of the War Front. But he complained, and perhaps rightly—who am I to judge whether he was right or wrong—that in one province in India the funds supplied to that War Front were misused. He said they were used for a political purpose, to further the aims and objects of one party. If that is correct, I condemn it as strongly as he can, I condemn this putting the National War Front to a use which it was never intended to. If I could understand his speech correctly his Resolution might have been worded differently. It might have been that the funds for the War Front should be used for purposes for which they were originally intended and that Government should take steps to see that those funds were not used by any political party for any political objects or for any political aim. And if he could give us evidence that that was so, he ought to receive the whole-hearted support of this House in condemning any provincial Government who puts this money to such uses.

**Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan:** Not only money but also the machinery.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Yes, monies and machinery. If they have been so used I would be quite prepared to whole-heartedly condemn it. It is going against the whole purpose of the War Front. It leads not to helping the war effort, it may lead the other way. Therefore I quite sympathise with any such complaint. I also sympathise with any complaint, if it can be proved, that the War Front monies or the machinery have been used wrongly and in order to harm or injure anybody, if used to bring direct or indirect compulsion on anybody. I am quite prepared to condemn all that; but I am not prepared to admit that the National War Front throughout India has been a machinery for lying, nor am I prepared to admit that it has been a waste of money. I am prepared to admit that from the point of view of the speakers they are right; they are against war efforts, they have been against war efforts, they will ever remain against war efforts for their own reasons. They are against India fighting this war. I have my own point of view, as they have theirs. Who is right and who is wrong history alone will judge. The present political situation in India is only one pointer towards what the historian a hundred years hence will say. That I am not prepared to argue, I leave it to the historian to judge.

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

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** What I say is that you should not condemn whole-heartedly, as you want to do, the efforts of non-officials who have tried their best to help their country, which is yours and mine, to the best of their ability, so as to have in the future a Government in this country which we all hope will come in good time.

**Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am very glad that the House did not give permission for the withdrawal of this Resolution. It has therefore become possible for me to submit my own views on the point at issue. Every one knows that from the very first day the war started—the 3rd September, 1939, I have whole-heartedly supported it. I have supported it throughout, I support it today and I will support it until the last of Fascism is destroyed. I have not supported it because, as my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir thought, that will bring Swaraj. It may or it may not; if it does I shall be grateful and if it does not I shall not be surprised. But that will not make any change in my attitude towards the war; I believe this is a war in which Fascism and anti-Fascism are the parties. It is not a war between one country against another; it is a war of ideas, a war of democracy against autocracy, a war of racial arrogance against the right of human beings to live their own life. That is the issue in this war; all over the world the working classes have backed this war. They have all backed this war as a war against Fascism. Therefore, while I have regretted the attitude of the political parties in this country towards the war for reasons into which I do not want to go today, as a working class representative it has been my duty to support the war throughout. And because I have supported the war I have also participated in the National War Front. The National War Front is not exactly the Front which Lord Linlithgow intended it to be when he started it. It has been my view all these years that the National War Front has not been exactly the War Front which was suggested by His Excellency Lord Linlithgow and which he accepted. His Excellency's idea then was that the Front should silence the babblers, destroy the fifth columnist and to support the war effort which was to be run under non-official auspices. There was not to be any Government officer controlling or regulating it. That was the original object, which anybody who reads the statement issued in 1942 by H. E. Lord Linlithgow will find. Unhappily in some Provinces no attempt was ever made to run it through non-officials. Happily in my province of Bombay from the very beginning the National War Front has been run under non-official auspices. I do not say that it has been very successful. It could have been better off than it is. But at least we have the satisfaction that in the Province of Bombay the National War

Front has been organised through non-official support. Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, my friend Dr. Ambedkar and myself were associated with it from the beginning and after Dr. Ambedkar's translation to the Executive Council, Mr. Hoosainbhai Lalljee has been kindly assisting us and in Bombay we have found no difficulty in carrying on the National War Front propaganda. It is not true, I may assure my friend Mr. Pande, that the meetings which we have addressed were attended by 12: The figure was not even 1,200 but several thousands. My friend, Sir Cowasjee, will bear testimony that it was an open air meeting in the Gowalia Tank site in Bombay. It was advertised days before. Everybody was free to come. The meeting was attended by not less than 6 to 7 thousand people and it was a very successful meeting. I agree that there have been other meetings which were not so successful.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Other parties too have their own hirelings at their meetings.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** I admit that the National War Front does not contain all angels but you are not all angels either, you will agree. We all are Indians. Do not think that because you swear by one party therefore you immediately become superior to the others. Nothing of the kind. We are all on the whole of the same moral stature, the same political and intellectual stature whether we swear by one party or not. We are all Indians.

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari** (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): At least you will concede that we are equal to you.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** You may be superior but in what you are superior I will not say today. Therefore do not interrupt. As a workers' representative I want to say that all over the world the workers have stood by this war in the interest of democracy. If this Government is not democratic, it is not my fault. If the other countries are ruled by undemocratic governments, it is not our fault. But there is one test which I shall apply. My friends of the Congress Party—let them remember that even with all their numbers they do not represent more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores of voters. That is all they represent. Out of a population of 40 crores they represent  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores of voters. My friends of the Muslim League represent even less but their attitude has been one of neutrality in this war, a malevolent neutrality but not an opposition. And the opposition of the Congress Party has been unequivocal. I ask what about the remaining 38 crores whom the National War Front wanted to approach? (Interruptions.) This question is not going to be decided by anger but by results. You have opposed the war effort for all you are worth, if you are worth anything. But you find that 20 lakhs of soldiers have enlisted themselves and it is a deliberate lie to malign the Indian soldiers as mercenaries. His feet are rooted in the soil of this land. He is more patriotic than many here and to say that these 20 lakhs of Indians are mercenaries is the rankest ingratitude. If you are sitting safely here it is because the Indian soldier is fighting at the fronts. If you are enjoying this opportunity of talking through your caps here, it is because he is shedding his blood elsewhere. Therefore it is utter rot for you to say that the Indian soldier is a mercenary. He is no more mercenary than any of your supporters. I maintain that the Indian soldiers have enabled this House to function today. You would not have been functioning with all your "Quit India" business but for the Indian soldier. (Interruptions.) Don't interrupt. I am giving you the result. 20 lakhs of Indian soldiers have been recruited in spite of you. In spite of you, 500 crores of rupees have been lent to Government and the Germans and the Japs are on the run in spite of you. That is the result of the National War Front and the war effort. (Interruptions.) You may talk any rot you like. You are safe today, because of the Indian soldier and because of his great sacrifice. But for him your tall talk would not have been heard except in a Japanese prison. That would have been your fate, if the Indian soldier had not been there. Therefore while I say that there are many faults in the National War Front it has on the whole not done badly. The biggest beneficiaries of the National War Front are you and your so-called Congress journals. They receive the advertisements of the National War Front not with-

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]  
both hands, but with four hands. Examine their accounts and you will see how much money has gone into their coffers.

**An Honourable Member:** Including yourself?

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** I am willing to go into any examination. All your ancestors would not be as clean as myself. Do not talk about my accepting money. I stand against one and all to give the lie to the charge that anything in this world can corrupt me. I stand by this war effort as I have ever stood, not because there is any gain. There are only accusations from people like you. You run away from the fight, leave it to others to fight, because you are sure that in the end the British people will win. In opposing the war you claim the credit of becoming patriots and you will also have the advantage of being safe while others fight. Such is the dishonest attitude of people who try to thwart and condemn the war effort. The National War Front may be faulty. Dinners are sometimes given before meetings are held. That I agree. Some Government contractors are its biggest supporters. That I agree.

**An Honourable Member:** Also dancing girls.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** I do not know of dancing girls but if the dancing girls support the war effort, the people opposite will all flock there; don't you worry about that. I do not think one of them will be absent. There will be a veritable scramble and a stampede to get into the place. I judge the war effort of the National War Front by the results. Twenty lakhs of Indian soldiers have enlisted but you cannot get two lakhs of people for your so-called "Quit India" sabotage. It miserably failed, as it deserved to fail, against this anti-Fascist war. Your fascism could not succeed. After all is said and done, both of you are fascist bodies. Don't talk as if you were democratic bodies. It is good that the Fascists have been beaten; whoever helps in beating the Fascists, no matter who he is, is our friend; whoever opposes the war effort, no matter even if it be under the guise of patriotism, is guilty of cowardice in the first instance, selfishness and failure to realise that this war is a question of the safety of the world, the future of world peace and the future of peaceful men and women to live their lives according to their own lights and not be trodden down by racial arrogance as the Germans under Hitler tried to do.

Therefore I heartily support—I mean oppose this Resolution.

**Several Honourable Members:** Support! Support!

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** I heartily support the war effort. I have always supported it and will always support it. I would ask my friend Sir Sultan Ahmed not to apologise for working in National War Front.

**Mr. Manu Subedar** (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): His Master's Voice!

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** You are a creature of your Master!

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not use such language.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** He started by interrupting me. I support the National War Front.

**An Honourable Member:** You have already said that.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** I will say it again and again until you are converted.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

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

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Sir during the course of this debate, two forceful speeches have been made, one by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir and the other by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. Before I deal with the points raised by them in their speeches, I want to say that the Leader of the House has thrown a cold douche over the debate,

which promised to be a very brilliant one in the early stages when the Resolution was introduced last Session. The result of that cold douche has been that the Muslim League Party seems to have lost their enthusiasm which they exhibited during the last Session regarding the Punjab politics and the National War Front. However, if it was the military strategy employed by the Leader of the House, I congratulate him that he has succeeded to some extent in cooling down the enthusiasm of the Muslim League Party . . . . .

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed:** Neither military nor civil strategy.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** It is a political strategy then. I want to make an effort to persuade the Muslim League Party not to be taken in so easily by these parliamentary tactics which are employed for debate purposes alone.

Now, I come to the speech made by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. I quite agree with him when he said that the original object for which the national war front was founded or the machinery devised, was to coordinate the efforts of those who were in favour of the war effort and who wanted to work under some organisation. There can be no quarrel with the object. If I claim liberty to hold one opinion I must concede the same liberty to others who hold a contrary view on public questions. There can be no two opinions about that. Democracy can advance only when both schools of thought are given full freedom to express their points of view. But the question is—did the Resolution as such involve any question of war effort at all?

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Definitely.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** I do not agree on that point with you. The Resolution is not like that. The Resolution does not contemplate the war effort. If it comes in at all, it comes only as an incidental argument . . . . .

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** What is the National War Front for?

**Sardar Sant Singh:** To coordinate war efforts. Now, as pointed out by my friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, it is a machinery for the coordination of those who believe in the war effort. May I ask him—he is the owner of many a factory and he is well versed in machinery—will he continue to use machinery which does not serve the object for which it was put up?

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** That is a debatable point.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** I am coming to that. The question is whether he will keep on using that machine which does not fulfil the object for which it was set up. As I understand the main point of the Resolution and the purpose of the Muslim League Party in moving it, was that this machinery is not used for the purpose for which it was set up. That is what I understood the Mover of the Resolution to mean: he cited many instances, particularly in the Punjab, where this machine has been used for party propaganda, for political purposes, and for other objects which are not in any way connected with the real object of the movement but are rather alien to it. My friend gave away his whole case when he said that the machinery may be faulty, that the work done by this national war front organisation in some parts of the country may be condemnable. If that is so, is it not his duty to set up a new machine for the purpose for which he wants it to work? Both Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and Sir Cowasjee Jehangir gave away their case when they agreed with the criticism that was levelled by the Mover of the Resolution against the use of this machinery in that way.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** May I rise on a point of explanation? So far as I am concerned, I said that if the facts related are correct, then the action taken by those people is to be condemned. I said 'if they are correct', and I maintain that.

**Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan:** They are correct.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** May I also point out to the Honourable Member that in the whole speech of Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan the word 'Punjab' does not appear?

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** That refers to that. I said so.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** I am glad that my friend has further tried to explain his attitude towards this machinery, and by explaining that he has strengthened my argument rather than his own case. The position he has taken up is that "if the facts are correct": what about the opinions of those who hold those facts to be correct, who witnessed these facts to be correct, who from day to day saw that the machinery is being abused in the Punjab? Bombay may be different—an educated province in the hands of more responsible people like Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. They may be non-official; but what about this Punjab? When the subscriptions are collected for communal organisations under the very nose of the District Magistrates, who actively participate in it my friend cannot call the machinery a non-official one. It may be so in Bombay—I have no quarrel with him as to what he does in Bombay. But I have a grave quarrel about his knowledge of how the machinery is working in other parts of the country . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** Are you talking of the Zamindara League?

**Sardar Sant Singh:** I am talking of that too. The Premier would not have succeeded in getting 17 lakhs of rupees but for the help of the national war front—17 lakhs of rupees. I am not one of those who believe that the people have suddenly become charitable and have contributed these 17 lakhs to the Punjab Ministers because the people believe in Zamindara League. How did they collect that huge amount? Because the Government machinery was used for collections. The whole of the Government is used for the purpose of collecting that money. Can you imagine . . . .

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** May I point out that the war front is intended to collect money for the purpose for which it is set up, and for no other?

**Sardar Sant Singh:** That is exactly what I am saying, the machinery is used for purposes other than those for which Sir Cowasjee Jehangir stands. That is exactly the point I am trying to make. There are so many instances and the most glaring instance which my friend must have given in his speech—I do not remember if he did—and which I shall repeat now is that one Khan Bahadur Chowdhury Nazir Ahmad, a barrister-at-law, was head of the national war front at Montgomery; but as soon as he joined the Muslim League and parted company with the Unionist Party, he was deposed from that position . . .

**An Honourable Member:** Chowdhury Nazir Ahmed.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** He was at once removed. No one can say that the machinery has been used for the purpose for which it was set up. Why cloud the issue? My friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, has proclaimed, as he has always been proclaiming, that he stands cent per cent for the war effort. Let him please himself. None can quarrel with him on that point. But when he proceeds to say that he is purer than the seven ancestors of my friend over there I join issue with him absolutely. Anybody who is living in this age, who has accepted Government service as he has done for political purposes and retains his seat in this House as he does and whom the Government favours by maintaining him in his seat in this House for the purpose of abusing the Opposition, cannot be purer than even one ancestor of my friend over there. He too has tried to cloud the issue. The issue is a simple one *viz.*, that the National War Front machinery has been abused and has been abused grossly for party purposes, for political purposes, for purposes of favouritism, nepotism and for every evil that can be attributed to it. Should we distrust what we see every day, what we hear every day, what we observe every day or should we distrust him who sits at a distance of 200 miles and tells us that the National War Front is not used for this purpose? My friend is really going too far. I want to tell him that things happen to which we take strong exception and for the removal of which we are trying our utmost. Our difficulty has always been two-fold—firstly to succeed in getting a particular principle conceded by this Government and secondly when we do succeed we are immediately faced with another difficulty when the Government manipulates that principle in such a manner that it defeats the very end for which that

concession was made. Look at the matter of foreign propoganda. Look at the various things that this Government have done; what sort of people were being sent out for purposes of foreign propoganda. This House passed a resolution and condemned the Government and on that very day these men chosen for foreign propoganda sail from our shores to do propoganda in other countries. Is it not shameful? If we cry that this Government cannot rouse the enthusiasm even for a right war in this country so long as the Government is not what it ought to be, we are saying what is true and what is an axiom. It does not require much argument but unfortunately it is not regarded as a self-evident truth. We have to contend against strong adverse forces. We have to contend against our own men. We have to contend against those who for some temporary gain give away the cause for which the country stands. I would have agreed with the humorous speech of Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, when he said that the National War Front is intended to distribute bread and butter to some few Indians who are with them. I think that would be a true picture, provided the National War Front is declared to be a charitable institution placed in the hands of the Bureaucracy to please some of their friends. If this object is openly published we would have no quarrel with the National War Front. If we quarrel with it at all, it is because crores of rupees are wasted for making a propoganda, which in the real sense of the term is no propoganda at all. Even the Auditor General, as it was brought out in yesterday's debate, had to say "Why don't you call it a secret service, so that the Auditor General may not audit it?" The Honourable the Finance Member admitted during the course of his reply that Provincial Governments had not been able to render their accounts for some of these moneys. Nothing could be a bigger fraud upon the taxpayer than what is revealed by these disclosures. With these words I support the Resolution.

**Mr. Hoosainbhoj A. Lalljee** (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): I am sure many of my friends will probably be surprised with my standing up at present to speak on this subject and probably also with what I am going to say on the Resolution before us, that we should immediately abolish this department. It cannot be denied, as has been pointed out, that this department does require a lot of improvement in many respects. It also would be admitted and it has been admitted, I am glad, at times even by the Treasury Benches, that a lot of reforms could be made. Probably, it may be that a large number of its activities should be curtailed now that we are seeing the end of the war. It is also a fact that a large number of people feel that when we are so much short of money and taxing ourselves to the maximum limit, the amounts that we spend for this department are exorbitant and probably carelessly spent.

After having said that, I must say that I have been taking some part in the activities of this department from the very beginning of the war. In fact the manner in which I have been taking part, I may frankly say so far as I have been able to find out,—even many of my friends on the Treasury Benches did not know probably up to now until my friend Mr. Jannadas Mehta brought to light this morning that I did ever take part in this organisation. I have reason also to believe that even the Leader of the House, who is in charge of this department, knew precious little whether I ever took part in the activities of the National War Front in our Province. When I have said this, my whole object is to tell my friends on the other side that I am not one of those who have stood up here today to tell you that they are not in favour of the immediate abolition of this department. I have done something which I honestly believed was necessary and still is necessary but at the same time I do desire as strongly as my friends do that a lot of improvement should be made and a lot of care should be taken and that the activities of the National War Front ought also to be now curtailed a good deal. A great check is necessary and a lot of supervision in the right direction is necessary. Who can deny the fact that in the last four years there was a time when we all felt that on account of this Great War that was going on in the manner in which it was

[Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee.]

being waged by our opponents, not a single country in this world was safe from being ruined? If, God forbid, the Germans or the Japs had succeeded as they did in the first two or three years of the war, I am sure, we would have seen a great harm done to this country. When I say great harm, I mean great devastation. I do not for a moment deny that this great war has caused a good deal of starvation and difficulties for the people but there are calamities for which we are not prepared and which our enemies have not refrained from causing. It is in the endeavours made to rouse the people to this consciousness, in the sense that we should be ready to defend our own country and to go to the rescue of some of the people who have been butchered by their enemies that this department has done a great deal.

My friend Mr. Jamnadas has rightly pointed out, and I am mostly interested in that question only, that we have more than 20 lakhs of our people now fighting and they have fought well. The efforts made by our men in the army and the navy have not been fully appreciated up to now and there is not the least justification for calling them mercenary. All people from the highest to the lowest, including myself, do service of one kind or another for the sake of money. You cannot point out any people who are doing things not for the sake of money. Now, Sir, see the condition of our soldiers. They have been paid only sufficient to keep up the family and there is hardly any clothing. The culture and the up-bringing in this country has been such that people have always taken it as their duty to support the action of the Government, whoever they may be. I say that definitely. The whole history of India shows that. Whoever has been the ruler of this country, the people have made it their duty, after serving their religion, to follow the ruler. If our people have come forward in that spirit, I do not think it is fair to call them mercenary. I think it was Mr. Jamnadas who again pointed out that the sacrifices of our soldiers have enabled us to remain in this country safe. It may be so but it is a fact that their sacrifices have established the fact all over the world that we are not behind anybody in the matter of the good of humanity and anybody who tries to belittle our position in this respect will be sorry for it.

Now, apart from the 20 lakhs of soldiers, the work we have done both in the Government and private factories has resulted in enormous supplies to the war effort and the real success of this war is due to that work. Until America came in and for six months after, it was India and the Indian people who supplied not only foodstuffs but also ammunition and most of the things required. We must admit that this was due to propaganda done by the National War Front which did tell the people what the circumstances demanded of them and if the War Front was not there, the people would be thinking as to what is the right course for them to adopt. I am definite about one thing and that is that the National War Front have been able to tell the people how cruel have been our enemies. Let me tell you that so far as the intelligentsia is concerned, nobody in this country, in the Congress or the Muslim League, wanted Germany or Japan to come to this country. If anybody has been making propaganda to the contrary, I say it is a black lie. We do not want any other foreigners to come in and I do not think there is any Indian, even after this great war, who wants any foreigner to come into our country. If credit is taken on that score to the National War Front, I say that it is not the right way to put it. A good deal has been said by Sardar Sant Singh about foreign propaganda and what the gentlemen who went from here said in foreign countries about our politics. I remember very well that the Leader of the House did assure us, when the three gentlemen, one of whom at that time belonged to my party went that they were not sent for political purposes and I have carefully watched that they have spoken only their personal opinion and not the opinion of the Government or the people. Believe me, foreign people are not going to be misled by the speeches made by these gentlemen on the political position as between the British people and the Indian. If it is said that this propaganda has injured us, I do not believe it.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** On a point of personal explanation. My friend has entirely misunderstood me. I said that this Government has sent Members of the Assembly for foreign propaganda in spite of the verdict of this Assembly against them. That is the point.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** May I ask the Honourable Member if he does not know the question which I put to the Honourable the Leader of the House? He admitted that one of those Members who had gone to England had deliberately misrepresented this country by saying that the two major parties were opposed to the War Front. This was reported. The Leader of the House accepted that he had seen this statement and he said that he would advise them not to speak any more. This was a deliberate lie on their part.

**Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee:** I am thankful to my friend for the interruption. I have already said that so far as this country is concerned and so far as this Government was concerned we were given an assurance that politics, so far as the constitutional position of India was concerned, was outside the arena of the gentlemen who went there.— I do know that some of the members were speaking in their personal capacity.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** There was no personal capacity there. They were sent by the Government.

**Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee:** They all went in their personal capacity, financed by Government. There is a lot in that. They were not sent down as representatives of this Government. They were sent down as persons who will give their views on India and our only concern is, what they said in placing before those people the sacrifices that the Indian nation has made for the benefit of the war.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Why don't the Government finance me to do it?

**Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee:** You apply for it. My whole object is this: We have to prove to the world, although the world knows it, what sacrifices we have made and we are entitled to say all that we have done for the war. And if any occasions are provided by Government with the object of explaining what sacrifices people have done in the cause of humanity and in the cause of helping the British Empire, then what we have sacrificed has to be broadcast as often as possible. For these reasons I am not in favour of abolishing immediately the National War Front for what it is worth, but I do believe that this huge expansion should be curtailed and there should be a curtailment of expenditure because we have really overcome the difficulties throughout.

**Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury (Assam: Muhammadan):** Sir, I rise to support the Resolution of my Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan to abolish the National War Front organisation. I take this opportunity of telling the Honourable Members what is actually happening in my province of Assam, which is considered to be one of the well-organised National War fronts of India. I was closely associated with the National War Front organisation in Assam for over one and a half years till the 2nd of February 1944. I will tell you what is going on in that Department and why some of the non-official members have left and are leaving that organisation in my province of Assam. When the National War Front organisation was first started in Assam, a message about it was brought to us by the then National War Front Organiser, Lieut. Lais. He told us that it is a non-official, non-communal and non-political organisation. We, the non-official members, associated ourselves with it in order to be of some use to our country and we took upon ourselves the responsibility of organising the war front organisation in our province. I took up the responsibility along with others to organise our province district by district. In our province we call a sub-division, a war front district. I took up the responsibility of a district leader and for a year, I worked all the details in that district.

The first point that I wish to take up, is the non-official character of this organisation, because it is called a non-official organisation. I will tell you how

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this non-official organisation was organised in my province. When this organisation was started, my province was under Section 93 administration and His Excellency the Governor was the provincial leader of it. One Lieut. Lais, an Inspector of Schools, took up the responsibility of organising the national war front as its joint organiser. He took with him two Assistant Organisers, who were lecturers from our colleges. In the national war front organisation the most important branch is the Publicity Department. This Publicity Department is being managed by the officers of the Education Department who are put on deputation as publicity officers. The War Front Department had to go to the sub-divisional officers in the majority of districts to organise the national war front branch in those sub-divisions. Along with me when I was a district leader, there were 13 other district leaders of whom there were about 8 sub-divisional officers working as honorary district leaders. It was under their guidance, supervision and influence as sub-divisional officers, that the national war front branches had to be organised in their sub-divisions. Some district leaders were persuaded to take up these responsibilities with the assurance that the Deputy Inspectors of Schools and in some places the Superintendent of Normal Schools will work as honorary deputy leaders. Naturally, they had to work in that capacity and they are still working in some districts.

Next comes the district organiser. In each sub-division there was a district organiser. At first, some leaders of public opinion joined us and worked as honorary district organisers but I can say without fear of contradiction that there is not a single non-official district organiser in my province of Assam at this moment. Then, come the circle organisers, who are most important. In order to organise the war front department among the masses we used to get circle organisers. I will tell you who they are. They are lower primary school teachers. The choice fell on them because the organiser in my province was an Inspector of Schools and also because there was the financial consideration. There was no question of ideas or ideals. These poor people are getting only Rs. 12 a month as their pay which is quite insufficient for them and they were trying for a long time for an increment in their pay. So, they came here as circle organisers with the prospect of getting Rs. 30 a month and they organised the national war front department in the villages and circles because they were in close touch with the villagers as lower primary teachers. They took up the work with all enthusiasm.

These circle organisers, organised defence parties in the villages. I will tell you what these are. The circle organiser went round, collected names, got their thumb impressions or signatures and filled in forms for them. Whenever we went for an inspection or a demonstration was arranged, they would come up with their parties. But then, they also came up with bills for their wages for the day, when they had attended such demonstrations. I worked as an assistant organiser for six months and had to disallow many bills for such wages.

The most expensive part of the national war front department was the rallies. At the end of the financial year we used to sit and find out what was the amount left with us and how it should be spent. As we were not willing to allow this amount to lapse, we organised grand rallies. The grandest rally was attended by one Commander James of the Naval Department and he remarked that it was one of the grandest River rallies he had ever attended. We arranged that rally at a place which was only about 10 miles from the village called Banyachang where, we have lost up to this time over 14,000 persons. The moment we were having this rally a proposal came before us, the non-official members, that the rally may be done on a small scale and we should spend some money for the relief of the people of this village, especially the 300 orphans who had nobody to look after them. But when the suggestion went up to the Secretary of the National War Front Department, he sent a note that this money was meant for propaganda and publicity and not for any other purpose. We had to arrange that rally. We spent over Rs. 12,000 on that rally. We had another rally in another place and the estimate for the same was Rs. 7,000. But when

the rally was over, bills came over Rs. 20,000. The provincial organiser with all his staff, including some of us went there to square up the accounts and we paid up to the extent of Rs. 7,000 only. Then we found that claims for over Rs. 12,000 were still pending. Then we decided to pay up to a total of Rs. 12,000 but still we had some more claims outstanding. Cases were instituted in courts for recovery of amounts due under bills. The Honorary District Leader of the District who was also the Sub-Divisional Officer, had to be dragged in court to stand trial?

**An Honourable Member:** With what result?

**Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** Somehow the accounts were squared up. If you put the question, 'what is the National War Front' to any circle organiser, I am afraid none in my Province will be able to give you a satisfactory reply. When we were there trying to do some useful work, our friends gave us the symbolic name of N. W. F., meaning 'national waste front'. I now think that all the money spent on National War Front is being wasted. There is no practical use whatsoever. I find in this House there is a confusion. When we say that National War Front organisation should go, some Honourable Members seem to think that we are against war efforts, that we are out to hamper war efforts. It is far from truth. What we say is that there is no utility of doing this sort of propaganda which the National War Front is doing at present. Do propoganda by all means, but do it in a practical manner, do not waste public money. What you are doing now is actual waste of money. Spend the money, say, on recreation clubs in villages. The poor villagers would welcome such recreation clubs. Give grants to existing recreation clubs, or have a scheme to organise recreation clubs in every village and give grants to them. If you want to have publicity and propoganda in villages, then you better do it through the Publicity Department of the Provincial Governments, give the Provincial Governments a subsidy and make them do propoganda work in an effective manner, in a better manner than what is being done through the National War Front organisation.

Some of my Honourable friends pointed out that the National War Front is doing good to some national organisations by giving subsidy to papers. I say, it is doing the greatest disservice to our cause and to us. In my Province, there are two papers—the *Surma Upatyaka* in Bengali and the *Bhabishyat Assam* in Assamese—these two papers are managed and conducted by National War Front. I had occasion to visit hundreds of defence committees as Assistant Organiser and I found these newspapers lying on the floor as waste paper. I pointed out to the authorities, that these newspapers were being wasted. We used to give to one L.P. teacher for each Defence Committee a sum of Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 a month to read out these papers to the defence committee members in the villages. We asked our circle organisers to go and see how the work is being carried on. The report came that there was no audience to whom the teachers could read the newspapers. We paid for furniture, we paid for light, we paid for a room, to be hired so that the audience could sit there. Still no members turned up. So I submit, the money spent on conducting these newspapers is a waste. Another direction in which the money is wasted is by the issue of calendars and posters.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** With these words, I support the Resolution.

**Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce):** Sir, after the unvarnished account given by the Honourable new Member who preceded me, I wonder if there would be any Member of this House who would not bend down his head in shame if one should think in terms of support to this National War Front organisation. Unfortunately and quite unexpectedly, my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, had sidetracked the whole issue and imported matters which were at the least very controversial indeed; though I do not

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question his sincerity,—he is always found to be very sincere in the exposition of his views,—but they are maried very often by confused thinking. My Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, was more particular to criticise the Congress than to support the continuance of the National War Front. It was this obsession of his mind that weaned him away from the right lines of debate and made him criticise the Congress Party in certainly more polite terms than I could credit Mr. Jamnadas Mehta with. Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir first started that there could possibly be several schools of thought in regard to the prosecution of this war, and that he would not mind the existence of such differences, but that he would certainly oppose any party which tried to hamper the progress of this war. He also came to the conclusion that the Congress had hampered war efforts. Sir, this is not a new charge that has been levelled against the Congress. The charge started with the Government and I therefore cannot credit Sir Cowasjee Jehangir with originality for making that charge. He is only repeating the hackneyed charge, most irresponsibly and most lightheartedly made by the Government to suit their own purposes. I know it is possible for those who are by nature and by temperament opposed to the Congress and to the freedom of the country to draw uncharitable inferences from the resolution of the Congress.....

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Does my Honourable friend contend that the Congress supported war effort?

**Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty:** Please wait and see what I am going to say.....to draw uncharitable inferences from the resolution of the Congress which protested against participation in this war without India being consulted as such. Those friends conveniently forget the fact that the leaders of the Congress had, even more emphatically and more strongly than some members of the British Cabinet, supported the war against Fascism and Nazism; and what they desired was that in the matter of the declaration of war against either Germany or Japan, India as a country deserving of some esteem and respect, deserving of the declared status of being a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations should have been consulted before being drawn into the war. In fact, nothing could have given greater pleasure to us Indians, one and all alike, if Government had thrown the responsibility to us of fighting this war. We would have done it much more cleverly and expeditiously than these Britishers who are now muddling things. Sir, my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, has evidently pinned his opposition on this misinterpretation of a resolution which declared the self-respect of India. Would not Sir Cowasjee Jehangir himself feel insulted if he had been a member of the Cabinet and had not been consulted with regard to participation in the war declared by the British Government against their enemies? Even so, if the declaration of India being a member of the Commonwealth of Nations constituting the British Empire were real and effective, it was up to them to have consulted us, even as they consulted Australia, even as they consulted New Zealand, even as they consulted Canada. Therefore it was that the Congress as a self-respecting body demanded that it should be consulted. You might throw this charge against the Congress with impunity, but what about the Muslim League, against whom you cannot possibly lay the same charges as you are laying against the Congress, having declared that they would not participate in this war? There I know critics would draw a distinction between neutrality,—benevolent, or malevolent—and actively opposing the war effort. Tell me one single instance where the Congress as such has impeded the war effort. I challenge any one to say that.

**Mr. M. Ghiasuddin:** Was it not under Mr. Gandhi's instructions that people went out in the streets and shouted that the war efforts should not be helped?

**Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty:** It suited the purpose of a propagandist Government to spread lies and broadcast all kinds of charges against the Congress and put the leaders of that party into jail, and it might have suited the critics and opponents of the Congress to approve that Government have taken drastic action against the Congress, little knowing what they themselves will be

reduced to when the time comes. Apart from that, I am extremely sorry that the respectable and decent atmosphere of this House should have been fouled by invectives, unsuitable and inappropriate to any polite and decent body, by my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. Perhaps if I argue against him he might turn round against me and say, "That was due to my earlier association with the Congress". He was in the Congress. He himself was a labour leader for a long time; I daresay he might have promoted strikes and disturbances, certainly not for benefiting himself but because he must have thought that that kind of action was necessary against this Government. Whatever that may be, it is possible for us to speak vehemently about those ideas and ideals which we have in mind; but that does not warrant such criticism and such indecent language to be used against us as a body.

Sir, I am glad that my Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh has brought back the debate to proper lines. The whole question is, is it worth continuing the National War Front as it is now carried on? Is it not high time when you must put an end to these evils by completely liquidating that organisation when we definitely know that evils have arisen which we did not expect at the time of the formation of this War Front? My Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir has repeated more than once the statement that if the charges made by the Honourable Members of this House are correct, he is also one for the liquidation of this National War Front.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** I did not say 'liquidation'. I said 'condemnation' of these particular actions.

**Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty:** I thought 'liquidation' was a less harsh word than 'condemnation'. If it is to be condemned should it be condemned while continuing it? I think it should be condemned out of life.

He also stressed his view that he would not *ipso facto* give support to it, that he would wait for an inquiry and see if some justification were made out. If Sir Cowasjee Jehangir today can refute any of the allegations made by any of the Honourable Members of this House against this National War Front organisation, we would be prepared to withdraw the Resolution; otherwise I would expect him to stand by his word and to take the statements made by Honourable Members here as correct and vote for the motion.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Sir, may I point out to the Honourable Member that I have already said that my knowledge of other provinces is very limited? I speak for Bombay; and no charge has been made against the organisation in Bombay.

**Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty:** Exactly. My charge against my Honourable friend is that his intentions are good but his conclusions are wrong.

Sir, so far as Bombay is concerned, I can conceive of that organisation being worked on proper lines. Moreover, I suppose he has experience of Bombay city alone and not of the provinces. But Bombay is a very big and a very prosperous city and the collection of a few lakhs of rupees there would not matter at all. But an infliction of Rs. 10 on a poor villager certainly means much more than 10 crores means to him. Therefore he must sympathise with the experience of those who have suffered under this and give us his influential support.

Sir, the National War Front organisation has now been taken charge of and become the special portfolio of the heads of the provinces. There is no other work which these heads of provinces are doing except this, presiding over their meetings, going about from place to place with a begging bowl, collecting monies, and sending officers to go into the villages and collect money. From the peon of an office right up to the head of the department, every one is obliged to collect money; and it very often happens that one and the same person is being taxed by the Collector, the sub-divisional officer, the tahsildar, the revenue inspector, the district munsif, the police sub-inspector and assistant inspector, the circle inspector, and so on. You must imagine—it is beyond description—the hardship and tyranny and oppression to which the poor people are subjected. I daresay Government might not have authorised this. It is

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possible that the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting is quite innocent. But when he is informed about these impositions he must take us into his confidence and see that these evils are put an end to. After all, what is it that is achieved by this National War Front organisation? So far as its propaganda is concerned, I can tell you that those people who can understand its propaganda understand it too well; they do not believe a single word of what you say. In fact whatever you may say, they draw the reverse conclusion. If you say today that Russia is within 45 miles of Berlin, the immediate reaction to that unfortunately is that that is not a fact but that Germany must have gone 45 miles into Russia, and these people are really distorting the news and publishing it in the papers. That is the credit which this Government have got. Even if you speak the truth no one believes you. Apart from that, with regard to the actual collections, what is the amount collected from each province?

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) : As it is now 4 o'clock, the House will take up the adjournment motion.

#### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO ENFORCE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND TO RECALL THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (Sind Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I move :  
"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The object of this motion is clearly given in the notice that I submitted to the President.

**An Honourable Member** : Please read it.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** : I will do that. My motion is a censure motion against the Government of India, and I will come to the particular Member in charge later. The purpose of my motion is to condemn the Government of India for their neglect in not adopting stern economic and other sanctions against South Africa for the segregation and degradation of our nationals.

Sir, the point is a very important one: If we Indians are true to ourselves here, we should be true to our Indians outside as well.....

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari** (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural) : We are not true to ourselves here.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** : If you are doing something for yourself here, you should also do something for your Indian brethren who are outside India. You must not forget them. They have gone there, they have passed through many difficulties and troubles, they are toiling there, and if we do not stand up to help them and do not condemn the Government for not doing their duty towards them, I think we will be considered by the whole world as the race which is not fit to live.

Let us go into the history of the South African nationals. What do we find? We find that long, long time ago they were seduced to that country for work because at that time there were nothing there but barbarians who did not know how to till the land and to make their country prosperous. They wanted help. People migrated from this country. If we could have seen at that time, if it had been within our power to foresee that they would be treated in the manner in which they are being treated now, we would have stopped the people from going to that country; we would not have allowed our people to go and help them. But now, after they have become prosperous, they are treating our Indians like coolies; all sorts of difficulties and hardships are placed in their way. There is no end to these hardships. After all, there rose a man, a great man, an Indian, to support them and take their side and he was Mahatma Gandhi, who directed all his efforts towards uplifting these people. He was put in jail and he had to go through many difficulties and hardships, but he stood up undaunted. Unfortunately, he was not a Governor of that place, nor had he any portfolio, as my Honourable friend holds here. He did what lay in his power.

The next stage was when we prayed and requested in this House to the Members of the Government of India to come to the help of our nationals in

South Africa. At that time, Sir, these portfolios were in the hands of European Members here and whenever these questions came up before them they said that they were helpless. They may have sympathy for them, but they became mere channels of conveying the grievances of the Indian people to the British Government. The British Government would not touch their brethren in South Africa although they were seeing with their own eyes how our brethren were being treated there. Time passed on, and the stage came when our Indian Member held this portfolio—Mr. Aney. We thought that the atmosphere had changed, we entertained hopes that he will do all that is possible for his brethren—justly, of course, because even at this moment the difficulties and hardships of our nationals are being acknowledged. Mr. Aney held the portfolio for a short time and he showed good indications because he had come from the public side; he recognized the difficulties. He did something; he at least allowed Mr. Deshmukh's Reciprocity Bill to go to the Select Committee. Then he left the Government of India and subsequently he went to Ceylon as a representative of the Government of India.

Then came the Honourable Dr. Khare as Member in charge of this department. We were not at all disappointed at his taking over the portfolio. We had the same hopes. I knew him when he used to sit on the right side..... (Interruption).....now he is on the wrong side—he admits it himself. I do not want to say anything against him or be in any way disrespectful to him; I have got regard for him since those days, but then it is the work that will decide his worth, not my compliments to him. So when he took over charge of this portfolio, we found that he had more sympathy for them, he was feeling more disappointed than we were, he made so many assertions, he said 'I will do this, and I will do that'. We became optimistic and full of hope, and we thought that he will do what he possibly can. In one of his utterances he said that he would use his knife when the time came, but that time has not yet come for him and I do not know whether it will come while he occupies this chair. Any way, Sir, at the very outset he said that he was in correspondence with the Union Government and that the Union Government had been told what his own feelings were. So far as those feelings were concerned, I would like to quote a few words from his own speech delivered in this House during the last Session. It is on page 267 of the Assembly debates. Sir, he began by saying: "I come to the position in South Africa which is exercising our minds for the last 16 months or more since I have taken up the office". He then showed that he is doing something. At any rate he is feeling for them. Thus he was realising the difficulties in which those people are. Then there was the question of the Pegging Act. There were cries from the nationals and from here also against it. He said: "In March the Union Government appointed a judicial commission which had been foreshadowed in the speech of Mr. Lawrence, Minister of the Union, introducing the Pegging Bill". He expected that this Bill would not be passed. Well, I think he was hoping against hope. But the right remedy was not used against the 'Pegging Act' at all.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** You are wrong on facts. The Pegging Act was passed before I came to office.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Here you have said that it will be withdrawn. Wait and see to what I am coming. It may be before you assumed office, but in that it is no less a discredit to your predecessors and the European members.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali** (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): The Pegging Act was not one hundredth part as objectionable as the Natal Ordinance is.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** He hoped that there would be a compromise. Apart from that he hoped that all the other restrictions on occupation and acquisition of land contained in the Pegging Bill were to be withdrawn. I put him a question whether they were withdrawn, but they were not. Then he said that there was some sort of agreement upon which he was hoping for the best. He said: "On the last occasion I gave the House the history of the efforts we have been able to make to secure the withdrawal of the Pegging legislation".

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

Then he said: "I have maintained incessant vigilance over the interests of our ill-fated nationals". Of course I do not doubt his sympathies with those people. But the point is: show your cards, place them on the table and show that you have done more than other people. Then only shall we be satisfied. Otherwise, I will only leave it to the House to say whether the Honourable Member should occupy that seat. Further on he said: "The House will no doubt ask me what should we do? I would like to put the same question to the House. I know the persistent demand there is that we should retaliate". Has he done it? This was again a wish only. Let me tell the House that not only he but the whole Government of India wish that something should be done. He went on saying. "We are asked to take counter-measures". Yet he has not taken any such measures. He says: "The Government of India have been considering most actively the enforcement of economic sanctions". I have asked him, 'do you apply them?' I would submit that so far what the Honourable Member has done amounts to nothing. Now I am told and I read it in the papers that the Honourable Member was amongst the people, his own Indian friends in Bombay or in some place, they put him questions with regard to what he had done and what he would do. In reply he said: "I have done something". I think the Honourable Member is hearing:

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

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** My time is half a minute still. I have kept the watch here. If the Honourable Member has come here only to get his bread and keep his job, then he does not deserve that chair.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Then, come here!

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

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh** (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): To start with I may put before the House what the situation is. On one side we have in South Africa the South Africans.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhamandan Urban): May I rise to a point of order? The President has ruled that all these adjournment motions shall be discussed together. Would it not be advisable to know what are the adjournment motions before the House?

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** I am referring to that.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The real position is this. Only one adjournment motion was admitted. The President ruled that the Members having similar motions might speak and might have one joint motion. That was the ruling.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** I will come to it if you will kindly wait.

The situation at present is this. The Union Government and the South Africans are up against us. They have passed the Ex-Appropriation Ordinance, the Natal Occupation Residence Draft Ordinance, which latter has made the position of the Indians there uncomfortable. It segregates them. It drives them out of trade. It prevents them from acquiring land or alienating land or residing in particular quarters. That is the situation. Now, it has been admitted by the Government of India that we have been reduced to that position and that we must take some sort of measures and it has been therefore not only they who thought but this House was also of the opinion that some measures were absolutely necessary. When there was a debate on the 30th July, 1943, and when the Honourable Member in charge of this portfolio moved, "That the situation in South Africa be taken into consideration", I moved an amendment 'with a view to enforce the Reciprocity Act and other measures to redress grievances.' Now, the Government was party to that resolution as it was passed by this House. Then there was another debate on the 6th November 1944, and the motion debated was that the Reciprocity Act be forthwith enforced and the High Commissioner be recalled. That also was passed unani- mously, Government not dissenting. The situation is this: that the Govern- ment of India is committed to this position. Now there is on one side the Union Government which has adopted a particular attitude. The Government of India is committed to a particular attitude. The fight, so to say, has begun

but the Government of India does not wish to strike hard. It does not wish to go in that fashion as to make the other Government believe that it is in a fighting spirit. It is in a supplicating mood. Has the supplicating mood ever prevailed during the whole history of our dealings with the South African Government? If you were to read the history from 1914 you will find that we have never made any progress by carrying on these negotiations.

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

You will yourself refer to what you said regarding the work of the High Commissioner. You will find that your representations were ignored and the High Commissioner does no other business except acting as a Post Office. My friend in answer to a question had said what the High Commissioner was doing. All throughout the month of March and April 1943 and 1944 all that was being done was merely carrying on negotiations. You yourself have said that representations were made but they were ignored. You made representations to His Majesty's Government twice. His Majesty's Government did not care a rap for what you said. You lie sleeping in the Hollow. Why don't you wake up? There are three things that we suggest. My friend has suggested "Enforce the Reciprocity Act". You published a communique that you had framed certain regulations regarding the acquisition and alienation of property. What earthly good is it? Has any South African any property here? Is he going to alienate any property here? The real thing that will affect is the imposition of disqualifications similar to what have been imposed upon Indians there as regards travel and residence. That is one of the adjournment motions that I have tabled. Is there any reason why you should not do it? Why have you not done it? The thing that will affect them you don't want to do. You are shirking fight and in regard to the thing that is not likely to affect them, you say that you have framed rules. What you say is an eyewash. When people go so far as to shut you out, when a South African liftman will not take you in his lift, and when an Indian will not be accommodated in any of their hotels, what have you to say to this in reply? This does not interfere with your war effort. I should like you to do this that every South African must carry a badge, a badge of his slavery here and of his dominance in his own country, on his person, so that Indians will remember that he is a South African and he will get the sort of treatment that he deserves.

The second adjournment motion which I had tabled was as regards abstention from enforcing the economic sanctions. We had pressed for them and the Leader of the House that day was specific in his speech in the last debate, when Sir Frederick James said that if we employ the sanctions, they will interfere with the war effort. At that time he had a very nice retort. He said:

"It is His Majesty's Government's concern. I do not know what the Government will do. It is not our concern. Are we the only persons on whom the responsibility of conducting the war lies? Does not the responsibility lie as much on the other self-governing Dominions of the Commonwealth."

Having yourself expressed that other members of the Commonwealth are to share this responsibility for carrying on the war, that we are not the only persons who should always consider that this would interfere with the war effort, it is their business to consider that they should adopt such measures and policy as shall not alienate the sympathy of any member of the Commonwealth. I want you therefore to enforce the trade sanctions and I had given notice of this adjournment motion to the Honourable the Commerce Member. I want to know why so far as trade agreements are concerned or for that matter other things also, you are not going to employ the sanctions. I therefore very much desire that you should show fight and give effect to these sanctions to which the House committed itself in the last session. When we wished you to put into effect the trade sanctions, the economic sanctions, against that country, you came out with a communique after the last Session as if to show that you were ready but His Majesty's Government interfered. If you are deterred by His Majesty's Government from enforcing trade sanctions, I ask

[Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.]

what right have they to interfere now and why should you listen to them? When they will not listen to your request, when you did not get any response from them, when your High Commissioner was making representations in the year 1943 in the month of April, when you did not receive the smallest response, why should you allow this matter to count with you? Why should you not go ahead? Why don't you say to His Majesty's Government "Look here, if our stand is all right, if our grievances are all right, please don't interfere".

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member must address the Chair.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Let us not forget that we have entered the arena and both sides are prepared for the fight. Let us then fight. If you believe that you can achieve anything by negotiations you are horribly mistaken. The Right Honourable Sastry has told us long long ago: ("There is one lesson which is burnt in my heart and that is it is not the truth or justice of your cause which weighs with His Majesty's Government but the trouble that you create.") Are we not capable of creating any trouble, not even in these days and after so many years? Let me tell you that if you have got the power and if you are not going to yield that power, you will prove yourself unfit. What is the good of giving power to a weakling? What is the use of arming a fellow who will not wield the sword? I therefore ask the Government to stand on its legs, put on the gloves, enter the arena and give a knockout blow. This is my advice to you. If the Government of India have any guts, then give a fight. The whole House and the whole country is behind you.

As regards the High Commissioner, why have you not recalled him? Sir F. E. James himself has said that you are justified by way of remonstrance to recall the High Commissioner. The *Statesman* has also said that the High Commissioner should be recalled. Why don't you do it?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I don't take my cue from Europeans.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** If you do not take your cue from the Government or from the Europeans who support the Government, is there any third master? Are you going to take the cue from His Majesty's Government? Remember that you have committed yourself to use your knife. The situation demands a major operation. If you have ever done a major operation, then the time is now to do it. The situation cannot be treated by administering quinine or some other tablets. If you are no good for a major operation like this you have to vacate your seat and put somebody else who will do a major operation.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** You come here.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** I will. Give a fight and give a big fight. I do not see what reason there is for you not to recall the High Commissioner.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** Sir, perhaps the more convenient procedure would have been for any one of the Government spokesmen to get up and make a reply at this stage to the various criticisms that have been offered. I know, Sir, you have no power to enforce any particular procedure. . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have pointed out on several occasions that on a motion like this the Government Member should take an early opportunity to state his own attitude in the matter.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** There are four or five attackers: let them attack first and I shall reply then.

**Sardar Sant Singh** (West Punjab: Sikh): May I submit that early in the day the Honourable Member promised us an important statement? A debate may not be necessary if the statement is really important, as he said it will be. Why not make it as early as possible?

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Mr. President, I rise to a point of order. This is an important matter in all debates. Does the Government Member have two rights of speech, one in reply and one in intervention? If so, then we

could hear what the Government Member has to say now and then he can reply to the criticisms.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows that the Chair has discretion to allow a second speech to the Government Member if necessary, and if such a request is made to me, I shall certainly give it my careful consideration.

**Sir Gowasjee Jehangir**: If he will agree to speak twice, let us hear him. I understand there is a provision for such a thing—the Honourable Member has only got to ask for it.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes. But Sir Raza Ali has been called and he is speaking.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali**: I hope you will kindly note the time taken up by this interruption. The situation in South Africa is really far graver than most of us suppose. I do not want to attack any Member of Government or the Government in general; but I consider it my duty to bring some unpleasant truths before the House. The time at my disposal will not allow me to deal with the background affecting this important question. However, there are a few facts to which I would invite the attention of this House, so that the House may decide for itself as to which is the best course for it to adopt, whether to rely on these supposed assurances given by Field-Marshal Smuts' Government from time to time, or go ahead with the economic and other sanctions with which this House has armed itself under the Reciprocity Act.

There was a Bill known as the Segregation Bill—the technical name being Class Areas Bill—before the Union Parliament in 1925. The two Governments, viz., the South African Government and the Government of India, negotiated on that delicate issue, with the result that a conference was held at Cape Town, and an agreement known as the Cape Town Agreement was arrived at early in 1927. Now, I will just read one short passage from that Agreement:

{ "It is the duty of every civilised government to devise ways and means and to take all possible steps for the uplifting of every section of their permanent population to the full extent of their capacity and opportunity."

The Cape Town Agreement being a very important document, it was considered necessary that a representative of the Government of India should go to South Africa to see that the terms of that Agreement were complied with, and that Indians in South Africa were treated justly and fairly. The Cape Town Agreement has, however, been given a go-by. The question therefore arises, is there any point in your keeping your diplomatic representative, namely, the High Commissioner in South Africa? I ask the Government to decide for themselves. The Cape Town Agreement is practically no longer in operation. The death-knell has been given to the Cape Town Agreement by General Smuts. What is the justification for keeping your diplomatic representative in South Africa? That is only by the way.

Then the Pegging Act was passed very quietly and secretly in April, 1943, after this Central Legislative Assembly had adjourned. It is true that Dr. Khare was not one of those occupying the Treasury Benches then and yet something much more serious has been done after April 1943, to which I shall come presently. The Pegging Act roused a storm of opposition: it was in fact a flagrant violation of the Cape Town Agreement. Let me repeat—the Pegging Act of 1943 was a flagrant violation of the Cape Town Agreement, and it obliterated the Cape Town Agreement with a stroke of the pen.

I need hardly go into subsequent events, but those who have yet hopes from the sense of justice and fair play of the white South African population should fix their minds' eye on the harrowing tale of a lady with six children being dragged out of their house in the absence of the lady's husband, who was serving a term of two months' imprisonment. This is what the South African Government are capable of doing when they find it suits their purpose. Let this House not forget that . . .

**Sardar Sant Singh**: Yet, you have confidence in their fairplay and justice!

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** Now, the Pegging Act formed the subject of an agreement between Field-Marshal Smuts and the Natal Indian Congress in April 1944. This agreement is known as the Pretoria Agreement, on which Field-Marshal Smuts issued the following statement:

"It was agreed that the situation would best be met by the introduction of an ordinance into the Natal Provincial Council. This ordinance will provide for the creation of a board consisting of two European and two Indian members, under the chairmanship of a third European who will be a man with legal experience. The object of the legislation will be to create machinery for the board to control occupation by the licensing of dwelling in certain areas. The application of the Pegging Act in Durban will be withdrawn by proclamation on the passing of the ordinance."

This was followed by a telegram sent by Field-Marshal Smuts to the Governor General of India, Lord Wavell, from which I will quote: it is very important. Let the Government Benches take note:

"At a meeting on April 18th between the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior and representatives of the Natal Indian Congress, it was unanimously agreed that legislation be immediately introduced into the Natal Provincial Council to provide for a joint board of five, consisting of two Europeans and two Indians with a European chairman whose function will be to license the occupation of dwellings"—(this is very very important)—"to license the occupation of dwellings."

There is nothing about the acquisition of property either in the statement issued by Field-Marshal Smuts or in the telegram sent by the distinguished General to Lord Wavell:

"whose function will be to license the occupation of dwellings in areas within the boroughs and towns in Natal. On the passing of the Ordinance, the application of the Pegging Act in Durban will be withdrawn by proclamation."

Then occurs this passage:

"This agreement provides a fair solution of the trouble which has arisen in connection with the Pegging Act, and will, I trust, be welcome to Your Excellency as it has been to me."

That was the solution proposed. The meaning of it is this—that the Natal Council will pass an ordinance regulating the licensing of dwellings. It will have nothing to do with the acquisition of property and as soon as that is done the Pegging Act will be withdrawn. Now, has any of these things been done either by the Union Government or Field-Marshal Smuts or the Natal Provincial Administration? About the Natal Residential Property Ordinance, I may only say that the first draft was made in 1944. It was rejected by the Natal Indian Congress. The second draft was prepared, to which all the three parties agreed, namely, the Union Government, the Natal Provincial Administration and the Natal Indian Congress and thereupon it was referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee—Long live these Select Committees of South Africa—revolutionised the whole measure to an extent that no self-respecting country could possibly take it lying down. The question of segregation in South Africa has been a live question for the past 50 years and more and various Governments of South Africa have from time to time tried to impose segregation and the Government and people of India have fought against it very hard. Yet, this very fact was accomplished by the Natal Provincial Administration in a very short time. Matters are very very serious indeed.

Now, I come to the part played by the Government of India. The reciprocity Bill was passed, we all know. May I know from the Government of India what action they have taken to enforce the economic sanctions with which they have been armed under the Act? Now, some people might say, some people do say in their ignorance—what can the Government of India do. They are powerless, they cannot do anything. May I suggest something to them? We can take action in two fields. The first is the field of exports and the second is the field of imports. Now, so far as exports are concerned, South Africa gets raw jute and jute products from our country to the extent of 99 per cent. of its requirements. The Press report is that the Union Government have purchased this year jute products worth 5 million pounds, which is equivalent to their four years pre-war requirements. Why don't the Government of India stop it? Why do you allow these goods to go to South

Africa? (*An Honourable Member*: "They have gone already?") Whose fault is it? It is the fault of the Government of India. I have very little time left and I shall hurriedly go through . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has half a minute more.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali**: There are things like textiles, cured leather, oil seeds, etc. These are exports. Let us come to imports. There is the wattle bark, canned fruit, brandy, liquors . . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must now conclude.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali**: I will just touch upon one thing. I will not argue it. Why are you so anxious to send a man as High Commissioner to South Africa? Where is the point in it? This diplomatic action you can take without bothering His Majesty's Government.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The time limit in these cases is imperative.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali**: These are the practical suggestions. I have one thing more to say, if you will allow me.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, no.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali**: Then I will conclude by saying that if the Government's reply is not satisfactory, this side of the House is sure to raise the subject more than once in the course of the present Budget Session. Let me tell my friend that.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare**: I will always welcome the raising of this debate on this question every time in this House. I am never afraid of it and I will never shirk it. We have been charged with not taking any stern measures and also not showing any fight at all and also always being in a supplicating mood, even though our representations have always been ignored. I repudiate all these allegations.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh**: The facts are against you.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare**: I repudiate all these allegations. We are not in a supplicating mood. We have shown sufficient fight, with which I also am not satisfied, and definitely this is the first time in the history of the Government of India that they have retaliated against a fellow-member of the Commonwealth. This is the first time in history.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali**: What have you done?

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh**: What is the substantial thing that has been done?

**Maulana Zafar Ali Khan** (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Cannot you bring South Africa to its knees by invading it? We have got 20 lakhs of patriotic soldiers.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare**: For the first time we have applied the Reciprocity Act. I was charged with not doing anything by the Mover but the fact of the matter is that the Reciprocity Act, as it was then, before I came to office, was not in a condition to be applied. I took charge in May 1943 and I lost no time. In July 1943 that Act was suitably amended, to be of any use at all. You cannot forget this fact. It was amended in a satisfactory manner. When the third reading of the Ordinance was passed on the 2nd November 1944, within almost 48 hours we applied the Reciprocity Act by issuing a special Gazette Extraordinary. Have you ever heard of anything as prompt as that? We acted with lightning speed. You must admit that.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh**: The results are apparent—no effect.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare**: When we had a debate on the Reciprocity Act, I made a speech. On that occasion, I have myself said that it is a pacifier without milk. I have not shirked that fact. It is not necessary at all to do so.

Sir, when this matter was debated in the House in November last I did note that the mandate of the House was that the High Commissioner should be recalled and economic sanctions should be enforced forthwith. I must confess,

[Dr. N. B. Khare.]

however, that I did not think that the time-limit must be taken too literally. The House will recall that I stated on the last occasion that the repercussions of the enforcement of economic sanctions required the most careful consideration. In making that statement I had in mind the possibility that it might be desirable from our own point of view to await the reactions to the measures that we had already taken. I had also entertained the hope that our object being identical the House would leave to the Government of India some discretion as to the timing of further measures. Since so many statements were made in the course of this debate which are rather contrary to the facts, I think it is better for me, and I think the House will like it, that I should give an account of the developments after the last debate.

The third reading of the main Residential Property Ordinance, the Natal Housing and the Natal Expropriation Ordinance was passed by the Natal Provincial Council on the 2nd November, 1944. The next step was to be the grant of the Governor General's assent to these Ordinances. The Union Government informed us that if in due course the Ordinance should come before His Excellency the Governor General in Council there, it would be considered with that care which the far-reaching importance of the subject-matter deserved. After the end of the last Session of the House, Field-Marshal Smuts received a deputation representative of the Indian community in Natal on the 28th November, 1944. The Indian representatives not only presented written Memoranda on the Ordinances but also had oral discussions in which they explained more fully how the main Ordinance contravened the terms of the Pretoria Agreement. The representatives of the Natal Provincial Government were also present at these discussions. Field-Marshal Smuts told the Indian representatives that in his 40 years of dealing with this problem the question of the acquisition and ownership of land and property by Indians was never raised. He also admitted that the introduction of the control on acquisition is a serious departure from the Pretoria Agreement. He has also admitted that the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance is not itself strictly in accordance with the Pretoria Agreement and cannot fairly be considered to be an implementation of it. The Union Government have, therefore, reserved assent to the main Residential Property Regulation Ordinance and it is also understood that this Ordinance is probably *ultra vires*.

As regards the other two Ordinances to which reference has been made in this debate, Field-Marshal Smuts has no doubt stated that there is strong reasons why assent should be given to them at an early date. He has, however, given an assurance to the Indian representatives that the Union Government would give their attention to any further Memoranda that the Indian community may wish to send regarding them. Assent to these Ordinances has also been withheld, perhaps temporarily and perhaps for technical reasons. Field-Marshal Smuts has also no doubt said that the Pegging Act which was to be repealed on the passing of the main Ordinance remains temporarily unrepealed and in force, but he has, however, added further that this position is to continue "while the other ways of settlement are being explored". The Union Government have also requested the Indian community to set up a representative body for maintaining close and friendly contact with the Union and Provincial Governments for amicable discussions on matters affecting Indian interests. I also note that in reply to a question in the Union Parliament Field-Marshal Smuts recently said:

"The Indian question in Natal is still the subject of correspondence between the Union Government and the Government of India and no good purpose will be served by any further statement at this stage."

**Mr. Manu Subedar** (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Is that all you have to say?

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** All that is camouflage!

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** You are entitled to your opinion. At a meeting held on the 10th December the Natal Indian Congress passed a resolution recording their disappointment at these decisions of the Union Government

and reaffirming their rights. On the whole, however, I get the impression that the Union Government appears to have stayed further action in the matter and are endeavouring to encourage further negotiations. There has thus been no serious immediate deterioration in the position.

I do not say that these developments have met our demands or justify any relaxation of our vigilance and pressure, or any re-orientation of our policy regarding the withdrawal of the Pegging Act. It is not perhaps too much to expect, however, that the action that we took when the House met last has brought home to the Union Government in a much greater degree than ever before the depth and intensity of Indian resentment at the Union Government's attitude and the earnestness of our determination to obtain a solution of the Indian problem. As I told the House on the last occasion, the chronicle of the sufferings of our countrymen in South Africa is long and tragic. I have, therefore, felt throughout that—while we should not relax our vigilance and pressure—all possible resources of negotiation and compromise should continue to be exhausted.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have they already been exhausted?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** No. Before the House discussed this matter last; the Union Government took the stand that the Ordinance was not contrary to the spirit of the Pretoria Agreement. They have now admitted that it is not an implementation of the Agreement and that it is contrary to it. They have no doubt said that the Pretoria Agreement must be treated as still-born and dead, but they seem to be willing to explore alternative settlement. (I, therefore, feel that the action that we have already taken has borne some fruit.) Honourable Members of the House must have read the speech recently made by Mr. Hofmeyr before the South African Institute of Race Relations. After fully explaining the equity and justice of the claims of the South African Indian community Mr. Hofmeyr concluded with the statement:

“There is no future for this land as a Christian nation save on the basis of generous respect for the dignity of all men, unwearying activity towards the removal of inequalities of opportunity and open-hearted readiness to concede to others what we regard as basic and essential for ourselves.”)

This address was presumably delivered in his personal capacity. . . .

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum** (North-West Frontier Province: General): On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should leave this to the Chair.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Honourable Members are aware that

5 P.M. Mr. Hofmeyr, whose broad sympathies we all appreciated during his visit to this country, is the Finance Minister in Field-Marshal Smuts' Cabinet.

I will quote another South African European who has written in a local paper there:

“The countervailing sanctions,—

*Some Honourable Members in the House said we had not taken any countervailing measures, but what we have done, is already being felt in South Africa—*

“The countervailing sanctions which India has already decided to take against South Africa may be only a pin prick,”—

true,—

“but the pin prick may rapidly grow.”

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

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I shall finish soon, but will I have a second chance to speak?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member may have a second chance.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** To continue what that South African European wrote:

“Are South Africans aware that India has 400 million inhabitants, a fifth of mankind, that the country is rapidly becoming industrialised, and that it has today a voluntary army of over two millions, a Navy and an Air Force, and that according to the Cripps proposals

[Dr. N. B. Khare.]

by which the British Government is still bound, these forces are to be handed into the sole control of an independent Indian Government after the war. South Africans may imagine that this will never happen. But they should apply their eye to the right end of the telescope, and not the wrong end, when India, instead of looking tiny and far away, would immediately fill the entire landscape . . . . . India is likely to forge ahead and become one of the most powerful nations in the world—certainly the most powerful in the Indian ocean, whose waters also lap the shores of South Africa."

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** What about economic sanctions? What about recall of the High Commissioner? Not a word.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Mr. President, we listened carefully and we expected some kind of announcement of impending action from the lips of the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations Department. The only action about which we came to know while listening to his speech was that he had within 48 hours done something wonderful, namely, that he had issued a Gazette Extraordinary. The Honourable Member thinks that the mere issuing of a gazette, whether ordinary or extraordinary, would so frighten the whites of South Africa that they will change their attitude and concede the just demands of Indians. We censure the Government of India not only because the Government of India is a subordinate agency, but because the speech of the Honourable Member in charge of Commonwealth Relations Department reveals that there are certain things which can be done but which he is afraid of doing. He says that he is seriously thinking about it, he is weighing the *pros* and *cons.* of the situation. We do not know how long he is going to think about this very important question, namely, the application of trade sanctions against the Union of South Africa.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** Another 3½ years.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** It is no use telling us that the Pegging Act, and the three Ordinances and the Regulations which are creating so much heart burning in the minds of Indians were passed when the Honourable Member who is now in charge of this Department was not in office. That will not help the situation. The fact remains that there are certain things which can be done and yet the Honourable Member will not do them. Now, Sir, take the case of the question of the recall of the High Commissioner from South Africa. You do not have to recall him. I understand that the term of the present High Commissioner in South Africa is over, and the Honourable Member in charge of this Department was clearly wrong in defying and flouting public opinion in India and also the unanimous opinion of the Indian Nationals in South Africa by appointing a High Commissioner for South Africa at a time like this. You do not have to recall the High Commissioner, you can agree to the demand of the public in this country as well as in South Africa by refusing to send the High Commissioner you have now appointed for the Union of South Africa.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** By not filling the post at all.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** But he has filled the post. Who wants a High Commissioner for South Africa?

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** Nobody.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** The Indian people do not want him; the Natal Indian Congress has telegraphed not only to the Viceroy of India but to the Members of the present Executive Council and to everybody who represents public opinion in this country, that they do not want any High Commissioner in a country where racial prejudices have made life impossible for them. Then if the people in South Africa do not want a High Commissioner, I can say without fear of contradiction that nobody in this country desires that India should be represented by a High Commissioner in South Africa. I cannot see any real reason why the Honourable Member in charge persists in the attitude he has taken up by flouting public opinion on this point. We demand and we hope that the Honourable Member will bow before public opinion by refusing to send the High Commissioner to South Africa because nobody wants him to be sent.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** I am told he is already on the high seas.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** That also is an additional reason for censuring the Government. We were told that when the Honourable Member took charge, no rules had been framed under the Reciprocity Act and that he took great pains and tried to expedite the passing of these rules and has enforced certain rules. But the mere enforcement of rules will not do. The country demands and the country expects even from a subordinate Government of India, as at present constituted, to apply trade sanctions against the people who are out to insult our nationals who are residing at present in South Africa. The question of Indians in South Africa is a question which is likely to loom very large in future. It is a question which more than any other justifies the stand which has been taken up by the Indian National Congress and by the All-India Muslim League and other public bodies in this country, that there is absolutely no place for the Indian people in the so-called British Commonwealth of Nations. It justifies the stand that if we are to progress as a free nation, that if we are to be equal among the nations of the world, we must at the earliest possible opportunity sever our connection with this great fraud which goes by the name of British Commonwealth of Nations. In practice the British Commonwealth of Nations means that our wealth is theirs and their wealth is also theirs. It is only a name which has been invented by clever British politicians to throw dust into the eyes of the people and to do propaganda abroad for certain purposes of their own. The Indians in South Africa are suffering from the absence of provincial and political franchise. There are restrictions about the free movement of Indians from one part of the Union to other, and there are certain other restrictions which have been mentioned by Honourable speakers before me. Now, Sir, why cannot the Government of India apply trade sanctions which is the only effective manner in which South Africa can be brought to its senses. I thought the Honourable Member would give us some reasons why he is hesitating. Can he really put his hand to his heart and say that he does not feel convinced that trade sanctions are going to do something to create some impression? Or, is it because he is concealing the real fact that his masters in Whitehall do not want the Government of India to apply trade sanctions against a country which has insulted us and has always been insulting our nationals, whom they took away to South Africa when they wanted their services? The real reason is that the Government of India have probably received orders from Whitehall not to apply trade sanctions because after all they are a subordinate agency. It is really a mockery of words that such a Government of India, as at present constituted, should be described as a National Government by no less a person than the present Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell. It shows the length to which the British propagandists can go, the lengths to which they can misdescribe things, to achieve certain ends which they consider to be necessary for their existence in this country. If this is a National Government, I fail to see why trade sanctions cannot be immediately applied against the Union of South Africa.

The Honourable Member in charge made a speech somewhere in India—in between the Sessions Honourable Members have plenty of time to roam about this great country—and there he was asked at a public meeting what he had done during his tenure of office to wipe out the wrongs which had been done to our countrymen in South Africa. If I remember the press report of his speech correctly, his reply was, "I have done something; you will know that later on". There was a cartoon about it in the *Hindustan Times* also. I should like to know from the Honourable Member what he has been able to do so far after he assumed office and why is it that he hesitates to let the cat out of the bag. He has failed miserably in creating any impression in South Africa. It is really surprising that while the Leader of the House was talking of declaring war against South Africa, his colleague and the Government to which they both have the honour to belong hesitate even to apply such a modest measure as trade sanctions.

**The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed** (Leader of the House): Sir, I do not remember having said that India should declare war.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** I am sorry: I think Dr. Khare said that. But still they are birds of the same feather, all Members of the same Government. And if Dr. Khare says one thing,—I believe in the national Government as at present constituted they do have some sort of joint responsibility,—he could not have said that without weighing words and without having consulted his colleagues, and such an important colleague as the Leader of the House, the Leader of the National War Front and the Leader of the Information and Broadcasting Department. Therefore the Honourable Leader of the House cannot take shelter behind the plea that the words did not actually fall from his lips but from the lips of the Member in charge of Commonwealth Relations. Sir, this shows the utter helplessness of the present Government of India, that while they talk of declaring war they are taking months and months to decide whether it would be in the interests of this country to apply such a modest measure as trade sanctions against South Africa. Therefore, Sir, we censure the Government of India, we condemn them; they stand thoroughly exposed and their claim that they are a national Government can only convince the gentleman who gave expression to those words. People in India and people outside India know that the Government of India are the nominees of the British imperialists, and they have been selected not because they represent any opinion in this country but because they are people who have flouted public opinion, who have gone against the wishes of the majority of their countrymen and all their endeavours are directed to support the British imperialism which we so heartily detest. They have not been selected by this country. We were told by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta some time ago that Congress represents  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores and the Muslim League much less, and what follows? Probably he means that the remaining  $38\frac{1}{2}$  crores were represented in this House by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, who combines in his person a paid agent of the Government of India to represent India in Burma and at the same time he can remain as an elected Member of this House. I may have said a lot of things about him but when I went to take tea he came to my table and sat by me. I do not know why I let him do it when he does not represent anybody.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have beaten your Congress; I am here in my own right.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** I will not allow Mr. Jamnadas Mehta to take me off the rails. We condemn the Government of India for hesitancy, for inaction, and for flouting the wishes of the people, and we do demand that even if the High Commissioner is on the high seas he should be recalled and no other High Commissioner should be appointed, because the Cape Town Agreement for the purpose of which the High Commissioner was appointed has been violated by the South African Government, and there is absolutely no justification now for sending a High Commissioner to that country. Sir, I support the motion.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Sir, there are two main issues before the House which are contained in the motion moved by Sir Raza Ali. The first is to censure the Government of India for their failure to recall the High Commissioner for India. That is the first issue and the simplest issue. Perhaps the Honourable Member in charge knows that there have been expressions of opinion from all shades and schools of thought that the High Commissioner should not be now sent out. There was no question, as has been said, of recalling the High Commissioner; there was a question of sending out a High Commissioner; and I thought that the Honourable Member would be in a position to say at least that the new High Commissioner was still in India. But I am surprised to hear, and I heard it only just now, that the new High Commissioner is on the high seas. Is that correct?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I have no information on that point yet.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** I will take it then that he is still in India. Sir, he has been requested by our own people in South Africa not to send out a High Commissioner. He has been asked by, I think, all political parties in this country not to send out a High Commissioner; and there appeared to me to be

very sound reasons for not doing so. I think it must be within his knowledge that only a few days ago the High Commissioner who was in South Africa had to make a fairly strong speech in public for which he was taken to task by the South African Government, and I believe—at least the press said so—that the South African Government were going to protest against that speech. So far as I can now recollect, Field-Marshal Smuts in reply to a question said that the South African Government was taking up the question of that speech with the Government of India. After that I cannot understand how the Government of India can still think of sending a High Commissioner to South Africa. Are we going to court a rebuff? Leaving aside showing our resentment, do the Government of India desire us to court another rebuff? Or, is the new High Commissioner going with instructions to keep his lips closed? It is either the one or the other. If the new High Commissioner has to express his views as the old High Commissioner did, then he is likely to get a rebuff; if he is going out with instructions to keep his mouth shut, it is a thing for which Government must be censured, if really such instructions have been given. Therefore, Sir, I contend that the suggestion made to Government that no High Commissioner should be sent to South Africa is a sound one; and if Government are still persisting in sending out a High Commissioner to South Africa, I will ask them whether it is the action of the Honourable Member in charge or the joint responsibility of Government, under which the new High Commissioner goes to South Africa. It is a very important question.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** According to the *Hindustan Times* it is Dr. Khare who is responsible and not the whole Cabinet.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** I will state that what now appears in the papers, you should take the opposite; then you will be more correct.

Sir, I do contend that the Honourable Member should make an announcement today that at least the High Commissioner will not leave the shores of India. I am surprised to hear that the Honourable Member should not know whether the High Commissioner is in India or on the high seas.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** Who arranged his passage? Dr. Khare did it.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** He has been ordered to go, but I do not know whether he has already left.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** If he has been ordered to go, we may take it that it is the intention of the Government of India to send him.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Yes, the whole of the Government of India, not myself alone.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Then, I think the Government of India are acting very unwisely. . . .

**An Honourable Member:** Foolishly.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** . . . and I will support the vote of censure. I think that the Government is irritating public opinion in this matter quite unnecessarily. We heard grand speeches from these Honourable Members on the last occasion, and today after those very fine speeches it was not found necessary for many to intervene in the debate. The speeches themselves reflected the wishes of this House and I might say in this case the unanimous wishes of the country. But now the matter is different and I am afraid that the Government of India are acting in a manner which will prejudice many other political issues and they are rushing on—some people rush on where angels fear to tread—and it is a dangerous position for them to take up. I would warn my Honourable friend not to defy public opinion in a matter like this as he is attempting to do—I mean on the question of sending the High Commissioner.

Now, we come to the next issue—sanctions. That I realize may be a little more difficult, but that he will have to do it sooner or later seems to me to be fairly certain, and the sooner he gets prepared to do it and announce it, the better. What I would like to know from the Honourable Member is, is Government studying this question, and how far their investigations have gone? It cannot be done suddenly, it has to be done with a certain amount

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir].  
of preparation; a certain number of steps have to be taken before the final result is announced. You have got to see that our own country is hurt as little as possible and therefore I can understand a little time being taken before the announcement is made, but is Government considering the matter, is Government taking such steps that may be necessary before the announcement is made? I would like to have an answer to that.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** From the Commerce Member?

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Anybody may reply. Because when it becomes necessary to issue such orders, I trust that the Government will be ready in every way, having considered the matter from all aspects. I hope the Honourable Member's reply will in some way appease this House and the public.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** If I get an opportunity I will.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** You will get an opportunity; we will give you an opportunity. I hope you will give a reply which will show the public and the people of India that Government do not intend to completely and absolutely defy all shades of political opinion in this country.

**Some Honourable Members:** The question be now put.

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

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Sir.

**Some Honourable Members:** We want to hear the Government Member.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Government Member may speak afterwards.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Sir, after my friend has admitted that our demands have not been achieved, he stands condemned. I will ask the House now to give a verdict to condemn him, and pass a vote of censure against him, the Union Government, the British Government and the Indian Government.

What it comes to is this: He has admitted that nothing has been done by the Union Government.

**An Honourable Member:** By the Indian Government.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** By the Union Government first. And our Field-Marshal Smuts has done absolutely nothing beyond deceiving our Member by giving an assurance that something will be done.

Coming to the other question, namely, that we should relax our efforts, I know that nobody will agree with the Honourable Member when he says that some other ways should be adopted, *viz.*, negotiations and agreement. We are already tired of that. Therefore it comes to only this: that he has no case; in other words he is not going to help us. On the contrary he has added insult to injury by sending away the High Commissioner over there.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** He left on Tuesday last and the Government of India know of it.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** I am only sorry that the Honourable Member in his august position should not know whether the High Commissioner has actually left this country or not. Instead of saying anything definitely, he says he does not know. Then he says orders have been issued. Actually I am now told that the High Commissioner sailed from Bombay on Tuesday afternoon. And yet the Honourable Member concerned does not know! Is this Honourable Member fit to deal with the Legislature? I think he should not come here only for his bread and job. There are many other jobs which he can get; he can go to his line as a doctor or, better still, revert back to the Congress Party. I think the House will be unanimous in adopting the motion.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** There is some misunderstanding . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** Always.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** . . . . about the position of this so-called Capetown Agreement. There is no reason for thinking that the Capetown Agreement has been given the go-by.

**An Honourable Member:** It is dead.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I know it is not being carried out fully, but it still stands . . . .

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Has it been followed, or not?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** . . . and in our peculiar position we must hold on to it and make every endeavour to have it carried out. The High Commissioner is, and may be, still useful for this purpose. (Interruption.) That is my own view, you may or may not agree with it.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** He is a mere post office according to you.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** A lot of noise was raised about the going out of the High Commissioner but, as I have said, we have decided to send him. Sailings of ships are military secrets in these days and so we do not know if the new High Commissioner has sailed or not. But, Sir, if we decide on merits finally to recall the High Commissioner, then it will take no time for the present High Commissioner to be called back even from the seas.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Will you take the sense of this House in deciding this?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** My Honourable friend, Mr. Deshmukh, has referred in detail to the disabilities imposed on South Africans here. The Reciprocity Act provides for the imposition of disabilities which should be the same or similar to those imposed on Indians in South Africa. As regards residential occupation of properties our rules have imposed the same disabilities as those imposed on Indians by Statute in the Natal and Transvaal Provinces. It is true that in certain areas in the Transvaal, Indians are prohibited from residing on any proclaimed land and are confined to certain locations. The fact that the number of South Africans in India is very small makes it impracticable to set apart special localities for the residence of Transvaal South Africans.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Why not the Lahore Fort!

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** The exclusion of Indians from private hotels and similar places of residence and amusement is not statutory but is enforced by long established social prejudice. For such exclusion of South Africans from similar private places of residence and amusement we can only rely on the patriotism of the proprietors of such places in India. As regards travel, we have felt that, in view of the small number of South Africans in India, reservation of accommodation for them in railway trains and tram cars would be a privilege and amenity rather than a disability. We have therefore decided not to enforce such technical disability for the present.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division:—Muhammadan Rural): Why not send them in Third Class?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** We are still scrutinising the other disabilities which can be imposed and so far as economic sanctions are concerned, as I have said before, it is not a very simple matter. The question has to be examined by both Commerce and the Supply Departments.

**Mr. Hoosseinbhoy A. Lalljee** (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): If Commerce does not co-operate?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** No, no. The process is not fully complete. They and the Supply Department have to examine so many implications of the contemplated sanctions.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** When did the process begin?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** The position of the High Commissioner depends on that. Supposing we decide to impose economic sanctions, then the High Commissioner can be recalled immediately.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Has the High Commissioner anything to do with the trade?

**Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan** (Rohilkhand and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Is it a commercial transaction—sending a High Commissioner?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** It cannot be. This insinuation is most mischievous. I repudiate it with the contempt it deserves.

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir:** Where is the direct connection between the two?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Much ridicule has been poured upon me but I make it clear that I do not go back in the least on any of the statements I have made. I stick to every one of them. As a medical man I believe not only in major operations but in medicine and in watching the reactions to my first prescription before I give the second. This is all that I intend to do and it is only for a full study of the latest position that I have pleaded for time. Our final decision still remains to be taken.

Reference has been made to the imaginary part played by His Majesty's Government.

**Sardar Sant Singh:** Imaginary part? I thought it was more real than the Government of India.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Of course, I have said imaginary because a statement was made by Mr. Deshmukh that a communique was issued by the Government of India to the effect that His Majesty's Government have disallowed economic sanctions, whereas in point of fact no such communique was ever issued. I wonder where he got it from?

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** I read it in the papers.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** That was wrong. It is hardly necessary for me to tell the House that in an issue of this magnitude His Majesty's Government cannot be disinterested; but all I would like to say and with emphasis at this stage is that neither the Government of India nor His Majesty's Government have taken their final decision on this momentous matter yet.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** You are waiting for instructions from London.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Have you received any instructions about applying economic sanctions?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Not yet.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Good. Therefore, you should act.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** In spite of the ridicule poured upon me—I relish it—I maintain that there has been neither failure on my part nor any neglect. It is only a delay which according to me is not unconscionable under prevailing circumstances. That is all I want to urge upon the House.

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** What is the meaning of terminological inexactitude?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I am not a lexicon: consult a dictionary. I know the feeling is very strong among all parties in this House and in the country. I have assured the House that I share fully all their feelings and much more.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** What can you do? London is not instructing you.

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** And after having said this I think the House should concede certain discretion to the Government of India in this matter. They know we are all one. We have the same desire and objective. They should concede something to the Government of India in the matter of time. I congratulate the House for not importing any unnecessary heat and I would therefore ask my friend, the Mover of this motion, to withdraw it. I know however he will not; nor do I care for it. I can tell you, that if the people who will vote for this motion, if pressed to a division, were subjected to psycho-analysis, I am sure they will fall into different categories . . . .

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** We should try you on 'Psycho'!

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Some will vote on sentiments of high patriotism and nationalism: some will vote on sentiments of pseudo-nationalism: some perhaps might vote on sentiments of communalism: and some

might vote perhaps in the hope that if this motion is carried I will be forced to resign or I will resign.

(Cries of "No, no.")

**Sir Syed Raza Ali:** We will not let you go!

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** I want to make it absolutely clear that I am not going to indulge in such cheap heroics. I know and I see the failure and frustration which is writ large on the faces of those who have done so.

**Mr. K. S. Gupta** (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam : Non-Muhammadan Rural): Bread is the criterion!

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Some people are too dense to understand irony. I have accepted my present office with all its limitations, with the object of attempting what little I can for preventing the deterioration of the position of Indians in the administration of the country. I particularly felt this to be my duty when the valiant champions of Indian nationalism thought fit to desert their posts leaving their countrymen—including their own devoted followers—to the tender mercy of a 100 per cent. bureaucratic Government. Even in this matter of South Africa I have not yet lost all hope of being able to do something to improve the lot of our nationals there.

**An Honourable Member:** What about them here?

**The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare:** Even if I fail in this I will not be the first Indian to fail. Several distinguished predecessors of mine—including Mahatma Gandhi,—both Indian and European—made redoubtable efforts to improve the lot of our nationals in South Africa. Some failed; others achieved but limited success. Again, there are many other matters in which I can safeguard Indian interests as best as I can by continuing in my present post, and if it is the desire that I should not, it is most inopportune at a time when it is an open secret that even Leaders of the Opposition are engaged in a desperate struggle to get into office through the backdoor of the present constitution.

Sir, before I conclude, I want to point out to the House that if you carry this motion of censure, it is your pleasure. Do it. But I must tell you that the things (the historical facts) for which you are carrying this motion of censure are the result of our past history, for which not I alone but all of us are responsible. So if you censure me alone it is no use, nor is it correct. The censure will mean not only censure of my own humble self but the censure of all of us.

**Honourable Members:** No, no.

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

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 10th February, 1945.