

11th February 1946

# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

## Official Report

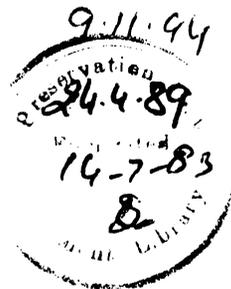
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Volume I, 1946

( 21st January to 11th February, 1946 )

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FIRST SESSION  
OF THE  
SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1946



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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*President :*

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. V. MAVALANKAR.

*Deputy President :*

SIR MUHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN, M.L.A.

*Panel of Chairmen :*

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MR. S. DAS.

*Marshal :*

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MR. SRI PRAKASA, M.L.A.

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

SARDAR MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 11th February, 1946

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

## MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Binay Ranjan Sen, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

#### FOODGRAINS SCARCITY ON EAST COAST

135. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary, Food Department, be pleased to state:

(a) what special arrangements were made to relieve the food grains scarcity created by the East Coast cyclone;

(b) whether it was not a fact that owing to lack of Railway wagon supply and destruction or spoliation of local rice-stocks, there was experienced great rice-scarcity and that the Director General of Food went to Madras to study the situation six weeks after the cyclone; and

(c) how Government propose to prevent the repetition of a similar delay in relieving such sudden scarcity of food grains supply?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** (a) The Grain Purchase Officers in West Godavari were instructed to keep a reserve stock of rice at each rice mill to meet emergencies and arrangements were made to distribute rice in rural areas through selected dealers. Rice export from East Godavari district was temporarily stopped from October and the export quota from West Godavari district was considerably reduced. Collectors were instructed to import rice into places where there was scarcity and to put down black marketing. In the first week of November the Madras Government asked the Central Government, Department of Food, for additional help of 30,000 tons of rice, which was immediately arranged for.

(b) and (c). The Director General of Food went to Madras some time after the cyclone to acquaint himself with the facts at first hand but no shortage of railway wagons was reported.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that blackmarketing is still widespread even in the so-called surplus districts?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** I am not aware of that.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will he make enquiries?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** Yes, Sir.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil:** Blackmarket rates are quoted in newspapers.

#### FOODGRAINS SCARCITY IN MADRAS DISTRICTS

136. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary, Food Department, be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware (i) of the failure of crops in parts of Anantapur and Cuddapah and Kurnool Districts of the Madras Presidency; (ii) of the growing food grains scarcity in that area; and (iii) of the steep rise in prices of food grains;

(b) whether any demand is made by the Madras Government for any special allocation of food grains supply for the people of that area; and

(c) the latest appreciation made by Government of the food grains and threatened famine situation of that area?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) (i) and (ii). Yes. (iii) We have no such information. An enquiry has been made from the Provincial Government.

(b) Yes. The Madras Government asked for 30,000 tons of rice to give immediate relief to these districts. This was arranged.

(c) Owing to continued drought the position in these areas at present is unsatisfactory but not bordering on famine. Further assistance on a much larger scale will be required and how this is to be provided is now under immediate consideration.

#### REPORT ON CONDITION OF INDIANS IN MALAYA

**137. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, be pleased to state:

(a) if Mr. S. K. Chettur, I.C.S., has submitted his report on the condition of Indians in Malaya; if so, whether Government have finished their consideration of it;

(b) whether Government propose to publish the report in full or in part;

(c) whether Government have made any representation to the Government concerned, i.e., the Colonial Department of the British Government and the Malayan Government that the Army Act enforced in Malaya shall be so amended as to be in harmony with the Indian Army Act, so far as the minimum punishment for those tried and condemned for collaboration, waging war against the Crown, murder, etc., is concerned; if so, the reply they have received from the authorities concerned; and

(d) what other steps are being taken by Government to protect Indians who are being detained or charged with serious offences connected with the last war?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) Yes.

(b) The substance of the report was published in a press communique dated the 13th December 1945.

(c) The question is under consideration.

(d) The Government of India are providing legal assistance for such Indians as may be tried.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it a fact that many Indians in Malaya want to be repatriated to India?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Yes, Sir.

**Seth Govind Das:** What arrangements the Government are making for their repatriation?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Every effort is being made to obtain shipping facilities in consultation with the British Military Administration in Malaya, and I am glad to be able to inform the House that their attitude is very sympathetic in this respect.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With regard to part (c) of the question, what representations have Government made to the Governments concerned?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** I would like to state that I am dealing with this matter only in so far as it affects the trial of civilian Indians. The examination that we have been able to make so far of this matter shows that there is only one Ordinance, namely the War Ordinance of 1941, which has a provision for trial for treachery for which the minimum penalty is death. We have been unable to trace so far any other provision in the Ordinances under which these trials are being held which lays down death as the minimum penalty. Even as regards this provision in the Ordinance of 1941, I have had a telegram today to inform me that the General Officer Commanding, Malaya, can either uphold such sentence of death or modify them or even exercise clemency. That is the result we have been able to arrive at so far, but, as I have said, the matter is being actively considered.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I would just like to know from the Honourable Member the nature of the representations he has made to the Colonial Office and to the Malayan Government or to the South-East Asia Command in respect of this particular Ordinance. It is a very serious matter the death penalty provided in this Ordinance for the offence of treachery; it does not mean actual murdering anyone; it may be just collaboration of a slight nature or of a serious nature. This penalty is a very serious matter. Has the Commonwealth Relations Department made necessary representations to the Colonial Government, or to the Malayan Government, or to the South-East Asia Command, or not? If not, why should it not make urgent representations now?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** We have made very urgent representations to the South-East Asia Command in this matter. They feel that there may not be any necessity for making amendment to the Act inasmuch as there is a provision for the General Officer Commanding exercising clemency. But I assure the Honourable Member that the matter is under correspondence and, if necessary, there will be no lack of vigilance or effort on the part of Government to have the necessary amendment made.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I would just like to invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that some of the civilian Indians who are now under trial or who are likely to be tried in Malaya happen to be eminent leaders and well-known persons belonging to the Bar or belonging to various other professions. One of them happens to be Mr. Goha and there are others—I suppose the Honourable Member is aware of this fact—and they are now undergoing trial and the necessity of making these representations and the necessity of securing an urgent reply from the other side ought to be realized by the Government of India. Are they pursuing this question with the persistence which is required in this case?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** That necessity is fully realized.

**Seth Govind Das:** On which date this urgent representation had been made?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** This is being made from day to day.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What is the latest position about the number of civilians who stand charged with treachery and the rest?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Sir, these are specific questions on the subject but if you rule that I should go on giving answers to these various questions I may be going too far afield.

**Mr. President:** What I feel is that it does involve matters of a serious nature so far as lives of Indians in distant lands are concerned. We may have some latitude in giving information in this respect.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What is your answer?

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How many of these civilian Indians stand charged today with these serious charges of treachery?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Our latest information is that about 24 Indians are under detention now. Out of the 24, two have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment on a charge of causing hurt with intent to extort confession. Five are under trial for mere collaboration and the rest for collaboration-cum-brutality, torture or cruelty. The figure may be 24 or 22. I forget exactly which.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Will the Honourable Member kindly undertake to issue a comprehensive communique dealing with the whole situation so that it may ease the anxiety which is felt in the country about the fate of our nationals in Malaya?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** We issued a communique in December. Since then . . . . .

(Interruptions.)

I may tell the House that our efforts have been very successful. But as soon as we are able to make a final statement that so many are going to be tried finally, we shall think of issuing a communique.

(Some Honourable Members rose in their seats.)

**Mr. President:** Order, order. Next question.

#### INDIAN REFUGEE LABOUR FOR BURMA

**138. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, be pleased to state.

(a) if he is aware of the fact (i) that already remittance of Indian Refugee Labour is being made by Shipping and other Companies through contractors; and (ii) that the local Labour Officers who are in charge of distribution of allowances to these refugees, are trying to hint to the refugees that if they do not accept these offers of employment in Burma being made by contractors, their allowances may not be continued;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to open registers at the offices of the Labour Officers for refugees to register their willingness to go and work in various departments of employment in Burma without the intervention of contractors, or whether Government will recognise the registers that our Burma Refugees' Associations prepare and maintain; and

(c) whether Government propose to give a categorical assurance that it is not their intention to encourage the system of contract-labour or to stop allowances to refugees if they refuse employment offered by contractors?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) It is presumed that the question refers to recruitment of refugee labour for employment in Burma. If this assumption is correct, Government have no information.

(b) The suggestion will be considered when recruitment of new labour for Burma is undertaken.

(c) It is presumed that by "contract labour" the recruitment of labour by the 'maistry' system is meant. It is not Government's intention to encourage this system. Government have no intention of stopping allowances to refugees on the ground that they refuse such employment.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With reference to part (ii) of (a) of this question, the Honourable Member said he is only concerned in the recruitment of new labour wishing to go to Burma. My question deals with the return of refugees themselves in regard to whom the officers are trying to hint to the refugees that if they do not accept these offers of employment in Burma being made by contractors, their allowances may not be continued. I wish to know the position of the Government whether they allow their officers to bring such pressure to bear upon these poor refugees.

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** No, Sir. As I have stated in my reply, we have no information that any officer of the Department has been bringing any such pressure to bear on the refugees. If the Honourable Member brings to our notice any specific case I will have that properly investigated.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** It is more than six weeks that I have given notice of this question and yet the Honourable Member said in regard to part (i) of (a) of this question that he has no information. Are we to understand that he has made the necessary enquiries and there is no truth in this fear felt by the people?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Our officers deny having used such pressure.

**Mr. President:** Next question.

#### PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FOR INDIAN LABOURERS IN BURMA

**139. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, be pleased to state:

(a) the latest prices of the most essential commodities of every day use for Indian labourers in Burma, for instance, rice, dal, chillies, oil, ghee, commonest vegetables, room-rent, dhoties, shirts, sarees; and how they compare with our Indian prices; and

(b) what will be the wage in Burma, say in Rangoon, Mandalay, and Moulmien which can fetch for Indian workers in Burma the commodities and clothing and housing that the workers in the Bombay city can get with a wage and allowances of Rs. 60 per mensem?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** (a) A comparative statement showing prices of certain essential commodities in Bombay city during July 1945, Rangoon on the 19th January 1946 and Mandalay on the 1st December, 1945, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) I am unable to answer this difficult question. The necessary data for a proper answer are not available.

*Statement showing prices of certain essential commodities in Bombay City, Rangoon and Mandalay*

S. No	Commodity	Prices in		
		Bombay city during July 1945	Rangoon on 19-1-46	Mandalay on 1-12-45
1	Rice . . . . .	1 3 0 per paylee	0 6 0 per viss	1 7 6 per viss
2	Dal Arhar . . . . .	1 4 5 "	2 4 0 "	*
3	Dal, Moong . . . . .	*	3 0 0 "	*
4	Chillies . . . . .	0 7 9 per lb.	5 0 0 "	4 0 0 per viss
5	Sesamum oil . . . . .	0 6 11 " (sweet oil)	8 8 0 "	9 0 0 "
6	Ghee . . . . .	2 6 8 "	15 0 0 "	*
7	Green vegetables . . . . .	0 2 7 " (Brinjals)	0 8 0 "	*
8	Sarees . . . . .	7 14 3 Each	30 0 0 Each	*
9	Dhoties . . . . .	7 5 0 per pair	16 0 0 "	*
10	Shirting . . . . .	0 12 8 per yard	5 0 0 per yard	*
11	Room-rent . . . . .	6 5 11 per month	**	**

\*Not available.

\*\* Rents for rooms have not yet been stabilised. Many do not pay any rent and merely occupy vacant flats, while others pay between Rs. 35 and 40 per month for rooms 12½ feet by 60-60 feet.

Note—1 viss=1½ seer=3½ lbs. (Approx).

1 paylee 1½ viss=6½ lbs. (Approx).

**Mr. President:** Next question.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** No, No. I have something to ask. Will the Honourable Member try to ascertain the necessary information from their Agent in Burma and place it on the table of this House?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** It will be very difficult but I shall make an effort.

**Mr. President:** Next question.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Just one little thing. I made a suggestion in the previous question whether the Honourable Member would be prepared to recognise the registers that our Burma Refugees' Associations prepare and maintain.

**Mr. President:** What question?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The previous one. The subject matter is the same.

**Mr. President:** I am afraid it is not possible. Next question.

## RURAL SICKNESS.

**140. \*Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the 700,000 villages of India no less than 75 per cent. of the inhabitants of these villages are bedridden all the year round, affected with preventable diseases chiefly typhoid? If so, do Government propose to put forward proposals for dealing with this state of affairs?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** It is not a fact that 75 per cent. of the inhabitants of the villages of India are bedridden all the year round.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Then what is the true fact?

**Seth Govind Das:** If the percentage given by the Honourable Member is wrong, what is the percentage of the people that Government think are suffering from preventable diseases?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** I shall require notice of that.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** It is part of the question. It is said that no less than 75 per cent. of the inhabitants of these villages are bedridden all the year round. He has indicated one dangerous disease, typhoid. How is it that the Honourable Member is not in a position to give us the number of deaths due to typhoid and what percentage of the population is affected by it?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** It is not the question.

**Mr. President:** Mr. Jaffer.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** If it is not due to typhoid then what is it due to?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** I think I have plainly stated that 75 per cent of the population are not bedridden all the year round.

**Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan:** When the Honourable Member verified the figure and gives the reply that it is not 75 per cent. then by his examination what percentage did he get?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** There are no statistics in existence.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I submit that this is a very frivolous attitude that the Government Member is displaying. We have given a positive question and a positive fact. It is for the Government to say that it is not a fact and at the same time that something else is a fact. After all they have all the records. It is their business to inform the House and put the House in order.

**Mr. President:** He has stated there are no statistics.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Government take care hereafter to collect the necessary facts in regard to this matter?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** I have already stated that there are no statistics collected which show how many people are bedridden all the year round.

**Seth Govind Das:** Do the Government keep no statistics as far as the diseases in this country are concerned?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I have made a suggestion. The Honourable Member does not give a reply.

**Mr. President:** What is it?

**Prof. N. G. Banga:** Will they take the trouble from now to collect the data asked for?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam:** If the Honourable Member will put down a question asking for the available statistics . . . . .

(Interruptions.)

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam:** . . . . . I will give him the available information.

**Mr. President:** Will the Honourable Member see to the maintenance of such statistics so far as the health of the people are concerned?

(Interruptions.)

**Mr. President:** Order, order. Next question.

#### SETTLEMENT OF INDIAN SOLDIERS IN PACIFIC ISLANDS

141. \***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department be pleased to state whether he is prepared:

(i) to approach the Government of Australia and the Government of Great Britain and suggest that land in some of the Pacific Islands rescued from Japan (with the assistance of the Indian Troops) might be made available for Indian Peasant Soldiers; and

(ii) to approach the Government concerned and suggest that the 100,000 square miles of British North Borneo and New Guinea might be made available for Indian settlement and thus cement friendship with India?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** (i) and (ii). The suggestion will be considered in connection with the general question of settlement of Indians in overseas countries.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** May I know when it will be considered?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** The whole question of the settlement of Indian soldiers is still under the consideration of Government. The consideration is going on. I am unable to say when exactly a decision will be taken.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether the decision will be taken in time to help the demobilised soldiers of this country?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** The matter is dealt with by another Department. I am unable to say.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** May I know if the Government have taken the same view as the questioner on this matter?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** Government have come to no decision.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Have Government taken the same view as the questioner?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** Government have taken no decision on that point.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Have the Government of Australia answered . . . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, order. Next question.

#### HIGH EXCHANGE RATE OF SAUDI DUES.

142. \***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state if it is a fact that in the Haj season of 1945-46, the rate of exchange was again fixed at a very high level? If so, what was the current rate of exchange between a rupee and a Riyal in the Hejaz and what was the official rate of exchange fixed for the payment of the Saudi Arabian dues?

(b) What is the amount of estimated loss incurred by the pilgrims as a result of this fixation of higher rate of exchange?

(c) What steps did the Government of India take when the Saudi Government insisted again on fixing the high rate of exchange?

(d) Do Government propose to take any steps against the Saudi Government if they remain adamant in their attitude in the future?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** (a) The Saudi Arabian Government did not fix the dues in terms of riyal but insisted on our recovering a fixed amount in Indian currency as their dues. The question of rate of exchange did not thus arise.

(b) As the Saudi Arabian Government fixed the dues in rupees, pilgrims could not complain of any loss. In any case the loss, if any, cannot be estimated as payment was made in the Hejaz, the Government of India having refused to pre-collect the major dues in India.

(c) The Government of India made urgent and repeated representations to persuade the Saudi Arabian Government to accept payment in riyals or in rupees or at a suitable rate of exchange in rupees, but the Saudi Arabian Government did not agree on the ground that preferential treatment could not be accorded to Indians.

(d) The Government of India can decide this only in the light of the circumstances prevailing on the occasion of future pilgrimages.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Is the Honourable Member prepared to deny that the Government of India fixed the exchange rate at 1/12 per riyal whereas the current rate in Hedjaz was 1/4? Is the Honourable Member prepared to deny that?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** I do deny that but I have explained the sense in which I deny that. As I have said in reply to part (a), the Saudi Arabian Government did not authorise us to make the collection in terms of riyal. It is true that at the time we made the collection the rate of exchange of the riyal was 1/4 but the Saudi Arabian Government required us to recover the dues in so many rupees. We therefore had no alternative and the rupees that we collected at the rates prescribed by the Saudi Arabian Government were of course a little more than what the amount would have been, if we had been allowed to collect it in riyals at the rate of 1/4: but, as I said, we had no option in the matter.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Did the Government of India receive a telegram of protest from the Chairman of the Bombay Port Haj Committee protesting against this and if so, what action did the Government take on the matter?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** We received protests from them and also from other Muslim organisations and the action that we took will be found in my reply to part (c) of the question.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** May I ask what was the number of gold sovereigns which each first class and deck passenger was allowed to take?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** I want notice of that question.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** Arising out of the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question am I to understand that the same rate was charged from pilgrims from other countries also?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** Yes, Sir. That is a fact which is absolutely ignored in this country.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** May I know what action have the Government of India taken against the Saudi Arabian Government for their attitude in this matter?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** As I have explained, we have made it clear in the plainest and most unequivocal terms that we record our maximum protest against it. After all the Government of Saudi Arabia is the Government of the country in which the holy places lie and I should be very grateful if the Honourable Member would suggest any other more effective sanction against the Saudi Arabian Government.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** You have got the Standing Haj Committee.

## INDIA'S CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL AGENCIES

143. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department state:

(a) if there are any offices like the office of the High Commissioner or Consul or Agent in any foreign country or British Dominion or Colony; and, if so, the details of the same and their location;

(b) the number of staff employed in each with their designations;

(c) if any or all of them are Indian nationals;

(d) if any of such staff are not Indian nationals, what nationality they belong to;

(e) if he proposes to take steps to replace any non-Indian in such offices by Indian nationals as soon as possible;

(f) if it is proposed to open such offices in any other countries and, if so, when and where;

(g) if in new offices that are opened, non-Indian nationals are kept out completely from the start; and

(h) if the answer to (g) above is in the negative, the reasons for not doing so?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House. Information in regard to the office of the High Commissioner for India in London is not available but the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply to Question No. 27, asked by him on the 5th February 1946, in this House.

(f) The question of a general extension of Indian representation abroad is under review but at present Government have under consideration only a proposal for the appointment of a High Commissioner in Canada.

(e), (g) and (h). The Government of India have constantly in mind the desirability of staffing these offices with Indians as far as possible; but it is often more convenient as well as more economical to fill ministerial and inferior posts by local recruitment rather than with personnel sent from India. For diplomatic reasons it may also be desirable to appoint non-Indians in certain posts.

## Statement showing Offices of the High Commissioners, Agents, etc., in various countries

Serial No.	Name of office	Location of Office	Staff employed	Whether Indian nationals or non-Indian	Remarks
<i>British Commonwealth Countries.</i>					
1	The High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa.	Durban/Johannesburg and Cape Town.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High Commissioner.</li> <li>2. Secretary.</li> <li>3-4. Assistant Secretaries</li> <li>5. Stenographer.</li> <li>6. General Clerk.</li> <li>7. Chauffeur.</li> <li>8-9. Messengers.</li> </ol>	Secretary, two Assistant Secretaries, Stenographer or are Europeans. The rest are South African Indians.	Secretary is of Indian Civil Service.
2	The High Commissioner for India in the Commonwealth of Australia.	Canberra . . . . .	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High Commissioner.</li> <li>2. Secretary.</li> <li>3. Private Secretary.</li> <li>4. Seaman Welfare Officer.</li> <li>5. Publicity Officer.</li> <li>6. Chief Clerk.</li> <li>7. Stenographer.</li> <li>8-10. Typists . . . . . 3</li> <li>11. Messenger/ clerk.</li> </ol>	Nos. 8-11 are locally recruited Australians. All others are Indians.	Secretary is of I.C.S.
3	The Representative of the Government of India in Burma.	Rangoon . . . . .	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Representative.</li> <li>2. Secretary.</li> <li>3. Publicity Officer.</li> <li>4. Superintendent</li> <li>5-6. Senior Clerks . . . . . 2</li> <li>7-8. Junior Clerks . . . . . 2</li> <li>9. Daftri.</li> <li>10-16. Peons . . . . . 7</li> </ol>	All Indians . . . . .	Secretary is of I.C.S.
4	The Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon.	Colombo . . . . .	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Representative.</li> <li>2. Secretary.</li> <li>3. Private Secretary.</li> <li>4. Chief Clerk.</li> <li>5-6. Stenographers . . . . . 2</li> <li>7-11. Clerks . . . . . 5</li> <li>12-20. Peons . . . . . 9</li> </ol>	All are Indians except a few peons who may be Ceylonese.	Secretary is of I.C.S.
5	The Agent of the Government in Ceylon.	Kandy . . . . .	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agent.</li> <li>2. Assistant to the Agent.</li> <li>3. Head Clerk.</li> <li>4. Stenographer.</li> <li>5-10. Clerks . . . . . 6</li> <li>11-15. Peons . . . . . 5</li> </ol>	All Indians except a few peons who may be Ceylonese.	Agent is of I.C.S.

6 The Representative and Liaison Officer of the Government of India with S.A.C., S.E.A.C.	Singapore . . .	1. Representative and Liaison Officer. 2. Publicity Officer. 3. Private Secretary to Representative. 4. Superintendent. 5. Stenographer. 6-7. Senior Clerks . . . 2 8-9. Junior Clerks . . . 2 10. Deputy. 11-14. Peons . . . 4	Singspore . . .	All Indians.	Representative is of I.C.S.
7 The Agent of the Government of India in Malaya.	Kuala Lumpur . . .	1. Assistant Agent. 2-5. Clerks . . . 3 6. Stenographer. 7-10. Peons. . . 4	Kuala Lumpur . . .	All Indians.	
<i>Foreign Countries</i>					
1 Indian Agency General	Washington	1. Agent General for India in the U.S.A. 2. First Secretary. 3. Second Secretary. 4. Public Relations Officer. 5. Information Officer. 6. Deputy information Officer. 7. Ministerial and other staff - 30.	Washington . . .	1. Indian *2. British. 3. Indian. 4. Indian. 5. Indian. 6. Indian. 7. Mostly European or Canadian and American.	*To be shortly succeeded by an Indian Officer now on his way to America.
2 Indian Agency General, Chung-king.	Chungking	1. Agent General 2. First Secretary. 3. Second Secretary. 4. Attache at Shinghai. 5. Publicity Officer 6. Ministerial and other servants - 4.	Chungking . . .	1. Indian. 2. Indian. 3. Vacant. 4. Indian. 5. Indian. 6. Three Indians & one Chinese. All Indians.	*Locally recruited.
3 Indian Vice Consul, Jeddah	Jedda	1. Vice Consul 2. Medical Officer. 3. Ministerial and other staff - 6. 4. One Sub-Assistant Surgeon and one Com-pounder during Haj Season in Mecca.	Jedda . . .	All Indians.	
4 Indian Vice Consul, Bagdad	Bagdad	1. Vice Consul . . . 2. Clerks - 2.	Bagdad . . .	All Indians.	

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** May I know why not one single Mussalman has been appointed as agent for the Government of India overseas and that every appointment has gone to Dr. Khare's personal friends in the Hindu Mahasabha?

**Mr. President:** Order, order. Next question.

#### INDIAN MENIAL SERVANTS FOR BURMA

**144. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state:

(a) if any request was received from the authorities in Burma for the services of Indian sweepers in Rangoon and other places in Burma;

(b) whether the Government of India acceded to the request in part or in full and if so on what terms;

(c) whether the Honourable Member is aware of the feeling of resentment in the country against sending out Indian nationals to do menial work in other countries;

(d) if the answer to (c) above is in the affirmative, what steps Government are taking to prevent any Indian national from going abroad under any system of emigration in any form for such purposes?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) Yes.

(b) Indian sweepers who had been resident in Burma but evacuated to India during the war are being permitted to be taken back to Burma.

(c) Government have noted the growth of such resentment in recent years.

(d) This will be considered when emigration of fresh labour is permitted to countries abroad.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations is reported to have refused to allow any Indians to go to Burma, whatever may be their status whether before or during the war, or to be taken to Burma as sweepers, why is it that the Government of India have allowed the Burma Indian labour evacuees who had been formerly sweepers in Burma to go back again there as sweepers?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Sir, the Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. I hope he knows that there is almost a universal demand in this country for the speedy repatriation of all the Indians who have been evacuated from Burma. I hope the House will see that we cannot insist on the speedy repatriation of all the Indian evacuees and in the same breath we cannot refuse our sweeper evacuees permission to go back to Burma.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Did the Government make it clear to those ex-sweepers that they would be free to go or not to go as sweepers?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Only evacuees who are willing to return to Burma are being allowed to return.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** What is the number of such persons who were sent from India?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** I have no statistics with me but the number cannot be very large, as I am still receiving appeals from Burma for sweepers.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is the Honourable Member aware that there have been a number of riots between the Indian sweepers and the local Burmans and that the Burmans hate the sweepers and other menials going to Burma from this country? Is the Honourable Member aware that those riots were due mainly to the sweepers going there?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** I want notice of that question.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it a fact that the Burmans do not offer their services as sweepers and that therefore Indians are being sent there as sweepers?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** Yes, Sir. My information is that there are no *mehltars* in Burma.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The Government of India seems to have a lower idea of the self-respect of Indians than the Burmans have about themselves.

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** Certainly Not, Sir.

**Mr. President:** Order, order. Next question.

#### IMMIGRATION OF INDIANS INTO BURMA

**145. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please lay on the table a copy of the agreement reached, if any, regarding immigration of Indians into Burma;

(b) what, if any, are the restrictions imposed on the re-entry into Burma of Indians who were carrying on business in Burma before the Japanese invasion; and

(c) what is the present number of Indians in Burma approximately and the extent of damage done to their property during the War?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** (a) No agreement has been reached so far.

(b) There are no statutory restrictions on the entry of Indians other than unskilled labourers into Burma. But in view of the shortage of shipping and of the abnormal post-war economic conditions in the country facilities for re-entry are being provided only to such Indians as the Government of Burma desire, or agree, to have in Burma mainly for purposes connected with the reconstruction of the country.

(c) No reliable figures of information are available.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Government of India take this House into their confidence and give it an opportunity to discuss the rough terms of their Agreement—if need be, in a secret sitting—before they come to any final decision with the Burma Government in regard to the status of Indians in Burma, the return of refugee labour and the recruitment of new Indian labour?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** We shall most seriously consider the suggestion.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know if facilities are being given to businessmen who have large stakes there, like those from the southern portion of the Madras Presidency, *e.g.*, the Nattukotai Chettiars and others?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** Yes, Sir; facilities are being given. Honourable Members are aware that recently a large number of representatives of Indian rice traders have been there. Some of them have just come back, and we have got proposals also for the return of another batch of representatives of business people.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Are any restrictions being imposed on the re-entry of those persons who go there as traders and businessmen?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** The answer to that is contained in my reply to part (b) of the question, *viz.*, that persons required for purposes connected with the reconstruction of the country are being given priority for these facilities.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know if the sweepers who have been given priority are considered as skilled workmen for purposes of reconstruction?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** There are no Burmese sweepers and the Government of the country wanted certain sweepers and we could not object to the return of the evacuee sweepers.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know how many applications are pending with the Government of India from merchants from the southern portion of Madras Presidency for entry into Burma?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** I shall require notice of that question.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** With regard to part (c), what steps have Government taken to ascertain the number of Indians in Burma?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** Our representative has the question in mind; but the Honourable Member must be aware that communications are still very bad in Burma and it is very difficult to obtain any sort of accurate estimate of the population or the extent of damage. But our representative has the point in mind and he has been pursuing it.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have Government ascertained that British businessmen have not got better facilities to return to Burma than Indian businessmen?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** We have put that quite definitely and plainly to the Government of Burma and have been assured that no such discrimination is being practised in this matter.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is the Government of India's Agent satisfied with the reply given by the Burma Government?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** Yes, I think on the whole he is satisfied.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

**146. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the Agriculture Secretary any information as to the price of milk in various parts of the country before the war and at present?

(b) Are Government aware of the scarcity of milk supply as well as its doubtful quality?

(c) Are Government aware of the remark of the Milk Commissioner for the United Kingdom with regard to the milk supply of Bombay, and have they sent an official to Bombay to make enquiries?

(d) Have Government got any scheme for the manufacture of milk powder in India?

(e) How much milk powder was imported in India?

(f) How much of it was full cream milk, and how much was skimmed milk?

(g) Have Government taken or do they propose to take any steps to increase the milk supply of the country?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) A statement showing the pre-war and present price ranges of milk in different provinces is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have seen a press report of a statement attributed to Mr. R. A. Pepperall of the Milk Marketing Board, United Kingdom, to the effect that "London's sewage was three times as safe as Bombay's milk". The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative. Government do not accept the above comparison as correct for reasons given in the statement placed on the table.

(d) An experimental scheme for standardising the process of manufacturing milk powder under Indian conditions has been sanctioned.

(e) and (f). A statement is laid on the table.

(g) Yes. A statement is laid on the table.

#### *Statements of pre-war and present price ranges of milk in Different Provinces* Part (a)

Name of Province	Pre-war price range of milk per pound	Present price range of milk per pound
Assam	Flush season-6 pies to 2 annas per lb.	Re. 0-3-2 to 0-5-4 per lb.
	Other times 1 anna to Re. 0-3-9 per lb.	Re. 0-3-2 to 0-8-0 per lb.
Bengal	Calcutta Re. 0-1-6 to 0-4-0 per lb.	Calcutta Re. 0-4-0 to 0-8-0 per lb.
	Districts Re. 0-0-6 to 0-2-0 per lb.	Districts Re. 0-2-0 to 0-4-0 per lb.
Bihar	Re. 0-1-4 per lb.	Re. 0-2-8 per lb.
Bombay	Re. 0-1-0 to 0-3-0 per lb.	Re. 0-3-0 to 0-7-0 per lb.

Name of Province	Pre-war price range of milk per pound	Present price range of milk per pound
C. P. and Berar	Re. 0-1-0 to 0-1-6 per lb.	Re. 0-2-0 to 0-4-0 per lb.
Delhi	Re. 0-1-3 per lb.	Re. 0-3-6 per lb.
Madras	Re. 0-1-2 to 0-1-11 per lb.	Re. 0-2-4 to 0-5-3 per lb.
N.W.F.P.	Re. 0-1-0 per lb. (Average)	Re. 0-3-4 per lb. (Average).
Orissa	Re. 0-1-0 to 0-2-0 per lb.	Re. 0-2-0 to 0-4-0 per lb.
Punjab	Cow milk Re. 0-0-9 to 0-1-3 per lb.	Cow milk Re. 0-3-2 to 0-3-6 per lb.
Buf. milk	Re. 0-1-0 to 0-1-3 per lb.	Buf. milk Re. 0-3-9 to 0-4-3 per lb.
Sind	Re. 0-1-0 to 0-2-0 per lb.	Re. 0-2-6 to 0-3-6 per lb.
U.P.	In Urban areas Re. 0-0-10 to 0-1-3 per lb. In Rural areas Re. 0-0-6 to 0-1-0 per lb.	In Urban areas Re. 0-2-11 to 0-4-0 per lb. In Rural areas Re. 0-1-8 to 0-2-7 per lb.

*Part (b).*

It is mentioned in the report on the Marketing of Milk in India and Burma, published in 1941, that a sample survey of bacterial counts made by the Municipal Analyst, Bombay, 30 years ago showed the presence of manurial contamination but at the same time they were negative in respect of such pathogenic organisms as B Typhosus, B Tuberculosis and Cholera vibrio. The presence of high bacterial counts, unassociated with any pathogenic organisms does not necessarily constitute a danger to public health. Government fully realise the great need for improvement in the standard of purity of milk supply and are taking steps to assist provinces in their endeavour to secure such improvement.

*Imports of dried or powder milk into India*

*Parts (e) and (f).*

Year	(Owts.) Full cream	Skimmed	Total
1938-39	4,963	8,652	13,615
1939-40	6,362	20,276	26,638
1940-41	6,183	26,590	32,773
1941-42	9,420	32,710	42,130
1942-43	7,777	4,964	12,741
1943-44	4,440	3,718	8,158
1944-45	17,376	44,287	61,663
	56,521	141,197	197,718

*Part (g).*

(1) The milk supply position was examined by the Milk Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee and their recommendations detailing the measures required for increasing milk supply were circulated to the provinces for action. Technical staff has also been appointed to advise provinces in farming schemes. Some schemes have already been started and others are under consideration by Provincial Governments.

(2) Financial assistance has been given to provinces by the Centre, as part of their Grow More Food Campaign, for

(i) supply of concentrates at concessional rates to milk producers for increasing milk production;

(ii) establishment of milk supply organisations;

(iii) appointment of technical staff for carrying out surveys and dairy development;

(iv) establishment of co-operative milk supply unions (Delhi and Madras); and

(v) establishment of creameries at rural centres. They have been requested to include the establishment of dairy farms in their post-war schemes.

(3) The slaughter of pregnant cows and cows in milk has been prohibited in nine provinces, and prices of cattle feeds and milk have been controlled in some of the provinces.

**MR. MANU SUBEDAR:** May I know if there is sufficient cooperation between the Department of Agriculture and the Departments of Commerce, Supply and Finance, to enable milk powder to be imported into India, particularly full milk powder, from those countries which have got a surplus and who are anxious to send it out here?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** Yes, Sir; a special inter departmental committee has been set up which is looking into the whole question.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is the Food Department helping in this matter, considering the impending shortage of food all round, to give free licenses to those who are able to import milk powder from other parts of the world?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** That matter is under consideration.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it a fact that in places where the prices of milk are controlled, the prices of fodder and other food material for cattle are not controlled?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** In some provinces the prices of fodder are controlled but in most provinces they are not.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is the Honourable Member aware that in the Central Provinces the prices of fodder and other food material for cattle are not controlled and therefore there is great difficulty for people who keep cattle?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** I am aware of the fact that prices in the Central Provinces are not controlled and there has been a big rise in prices of fodder there.

**Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Member instruct the C. P. Government to control the prices of fodder and other food material for cattle?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The matter will be brought to the notice of that Government.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In regard to part (g) what are the special measures taken by Government to increase the milk supply of the country?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** That is included in the statement appended.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Sir, the practice is to give statements when there are figures and complicated notes, but I do not see why the Honourable Member cannot inform this House briefly and verbally what measures, if any, have been taken? I do not see any measures.

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The recommendations of the Milk Sub-Committee were circulated to the provinces for necessary action. Technical staff has been appointed to advise provinces in framing schemes. Financial assistance has been given for the supply of concentrates at concession rates to milk producers for increasing milk production. Milk supply organisations have been set up. Technical staff has been appointed for carrying out surveys and dairy development. Cooperative milk supply units have been established in Delhi and Madras. Creameries are being established at rural centres. Establishment of dairy farms in post-war schemes is being encouraged. The slaughter of pregnant cows and cows in milk has been prohibited in nine provinces, and prices of cattle feeds and milk have been controlled in some of the provinces.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** What has happened to the military dairies? Have they been taken over by Government and kept going?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The military dairies are kept going by the military authorities. They have not yet given up a single one of their dairies.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** May I know what steps have been taken to improve the quality of milk supplied in towns at least?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** That forms part of the post-war development plans of the provinces.

**Mr. Leslie Gwilt:** In regard to part (g), of the question and in view of the statements made by Government on the subject in this House, will the Honourable Member be good enough to state what progress has been made by Government in the setting up, in agricultural areas, of centres for the artificial insemination of cattle?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** That is referred to in the next question.

**Seth Govind Das:** Does the Honourable Member know that in certain parts of the country the cattle are not of good breed? Does he contemplate the export of good bulls from one province to another?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The question of the export of cattle from one province to another is very difficult at present because of bans imposed by provinces in order to conserve their own cattle wealth.

**Seth Govind Das:** In Punjab and Sind there are sufficient number of cattle and the people there are ready to export those cattle to other provinces and they are not getting good facilities for that export?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The fact is that the Punjab Government have themselves imposed a ban on the export of cattle from the Punjab.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In order to prevent profiteering in the importing of milk food from other countries, will Government consider the advisability of themselves importing it from other countries and then placing it at the disposal of the public here?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The whole question of the advisability of these imports and how to distribute them is under the consideration of Government at the present time.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saxena:** Since when?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** For the last two or three months.

#### LIVE STOCK

147. \***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Having regard to the assurance given in the last winter that Government were taking steps to see that the total number of cattle was not reduced and that the export of cattle was not permitted, will the Agriculture Secretary please state what measures were taken?

(b) How many cattle have been permitted to be killed—(i) for military purposes, and (ii) for civil population during the war period and later till now?

(c) Have Government got any estimate of the number of cattle in India before the war and the number now?

(d) Are Government aware that a very large number of cattle had been killed during the war period by military contractors and others?

(e) What steps are Government taking to increase the number of cattle available?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** (a) A statement of the measures taken is laid on the table.

(b) A statement of the number and percentages of cattle slaughtered for military purposes is laid on the table. It is regretted that the corresponding figures of slaughter for the civilian population are not known.

(c) The total cattle population of India in 1940 was 207 million. The total figures of the cattle census carried out in 1945 are not yet available, but a statement comparing the figures for 1940 and 1945, where the latter are available, is laid on the table.

(d) Government have no information about the total number of cattle slaughtered during the war period, other than those already mentioned as having been slaughtered for military purposes.

(e) A statement is laid on the table.

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#### Statements

##### PART (a)

(1) No exports are allowed without special permission except to Ceylon, to which the exports were 2,509, 3,446 and 1,542 respectively in 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45. The following types of cattle may not be exported even to Ceylon:

- (i) cattle in milk, pregnant cattle and female young stock which have not yet calved.
- (ii) all male cattle fit for being used for ploughing or transport purposes; and
- (iii) breeding bulls.

(2) The Government of India have prohibited the slaughter or sale for slaughter of the following classes of cattle for army requirements:

- (i) cattle below 3 years of age;
- (ii) male cattle between 3 and 10 years of age which are used or likely to be used as working cattle;
- (iii) all cows between 3 and 10 years of age which are capable of producing milk, other than cows which are unsuitable for bearing offspring; and
- (iv) all cows which are pregnant or in milk. At the request of the Government of India, similar restrictions have been imposed in nine out of eleven provinces by the Governments concerned, in respect of slaughter for civil purposes.

(3) The military authorities have reduced the number of cattle slaughtered by inauguration of:

- (i) the development of pig and poultry farms; and
- (ii) importation and issue of tinned and frozen meat.

The number of cattle slaughtered will be reduced to the essential minimum.

(4) It has been arranged with the military authorities that the military farms will, instead of killing female buffalo calves, distribute them free of charge at the age of 14 days to cattle breeders who give an undertaking to rear them up to the age of puberty. This arrangement has been brought to the notice of provincial Governments and cattle breeders.

*Number and percentages of cattle slaughtered for military purposes*

**PART (b)**

Year	Number Slaughtered	Percentage
1940	47,823	·023
1941	73,524	·035
1942	2,22,417	·107
1943	2,65,396	·128
1944	1,83,974	·088
1945 (9 months)	1,42,110	·068 + ·017

*Number of cattle in British India in 1940 and 1945*

**PART (c)**

Provinces	1940	1945
Ajmer-Merwara	198,189	345,308
Assam	6,495,221	Not available
Baluchistan	188,275	168,851
Bengal	23,699,633	Not available
Bihar	15,455,967	Not available
Bombay	9,733,659	Not available
Central Provinces & Berar	13,278,860	13,567,206
Coorg	143,251	147,176
Delhi	142,823	180,937
Madras	22,119,402	22,673,941
North-West Frontier Province	1,032,760	1,097,834
Orissa (1935 Census figure)	4,863,297	Not available
Punjab	15,414,457	Not available
Sind	2,376,036	Not available
United Provinces (1935 Census figure)	32,469,552	29,621,483

**PART (e)**

(1) The Central Government propose to expand the work of the Dairy Institute and are considering the setting up of an experimental live stock farm.

(2) Provincial five year plans (towards which assistance will be given from the Centre) provide for the setting up of bull breeding farms, the distribution of these bulls to key villages, and the further distribution of bulls from these key villages to other villages.

(3) They also provide for the setting up of dry stock salvage farms and calf rearing farms.

(4) Cattle breeding along sound lines is being encouraged at Gaushalas which are being proved and reorganised for the purpose. A special officer, Sir Datar Singh, is working an honorary capacity in this cause.

(5) Artificial insemination has been introduced as an experimental measure at four centres (Bahadurnagar, Patna, Calcutta and Bangalore) and will be extended if successful, as to remedy the deficiency in the number of good stud bulls.

(6) The steps that are being taken for disease control through the increase of veterinary dispensaries, inoculation against rinderpest and other contagious diseases, etc., will help increasing the cattle population.

(7) The proposals for the increased cultivation of green fodder, the provision of silage, the introduction of rotational grazing and the subsidised distribution of concentrates will result in better fed cattle and more cattle.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** If Government are not aware of the cattle slaughtered in civilian population, how does my Honourable friend in reply to (a) try to make out that the total number of cattle in this country has not been reduced? On what basis was that reply framed?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** I am afraid I have not made any such statement.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** May I ask in how many factories dehydration of meat is allowed?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The total number of such factories is not known to me as it is dealt with in another Department of Government.

**Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan:** Is it not time that this should be stopped in the interest of India, because dehydrated meat is only exported outside India?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** I am afraid I do not know the details but as far as I am aware dehydrated meat is used mainly for feeding the army in India.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know whether Government have considered the absolute prohibition of the export of cattle from this country in view of the serious food situation, even for ships and convoys which are moving out and which are taking either meat or cattle?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** As I have pointed out, the number of cattle that have been exported is 2,509 in 1942-43, 3,446 in 1943-44 and 1,542 in 1944-45 and these cattle are mainly sent to Ceylon for purposes of food.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member contradict me when I say that cattle taken by ships and convoys in the Indian harbours are not put down as exported cattle but they are merely regarded as local dealings and they do not appear in the export figures?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** I am quite prepared to accept what the Honourable Member has said.

**Seth Govind Das:** Has any age limit been fixed for the slaughter of cattle?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** Yes, Sir. The restrictions are as follows:

Cattle below 3 years of age, male cattle between 8 and 10 years of age which are used or likely to be used as working cattle; all cows between 8 and 10 years of age which are capable of producing milk, other than cows which are unsuitable for bearing offspring; and all cows which are pregnant or in milk.

**Seth Govind Das:** Does the Honourable Member know that in military stations like Jubbulpore, in spite of this age limit, no discrimination is made and cattle of all ages are being slaughtered?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** I have no information on that point.

**Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Member make inquiries about it?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** I am quite prepared to make inquiries but as I have just remarked, the instructions on the point are quite clear.

**Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** May I know whether Government will put any limit on the number of cattle to be slaughtered by the military in view of the fact that cultivation depends on cattle power?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** The number of cattle slaughtered for military purposes which was 265 thousand odd in 1943 has decreased to 142 thousand in 1945 and it is hoped to decrease the number still further very considerably in the next few months.

**Sreejunt Rohini Kumar Choudhury:** Is the Government aware that due to promiscuous slaughter of cattle to feed the Army people there is dearth of plough cattle in Assam now?

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat:** I have no information on the point. I know that there is a complaint of shortage of cattle in Assam but if the Honourable Member wishes, I shall make further inquiries in the matter.

#### EXPORT OF GROUNDNUTS

**148. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state how much groundnut is produced in India, and whether the quantity last reported shows any increase over the pre-war years?

(b) How much groundnut has been permitted to be exported from India—(i) on private account, (ii) on account of the U. K. C. C., and (iii) on Government account?

(c) Why is the export of groundnut permitted at all, in spite of several representations received by Government that this is a good article of food?

(d) Do Government now propose to take steps to prohibit the export of groundnuts, which can help some of the deficit areas for food in India to tide over by supplementing the inadequate supply of the normal foodgrains?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) The average production of groundnuts for the quinquennium 1934-35 to 1938-39 was 2,657,600 tons. During the quinquennium ending 1944-45 the average production showed an increase of 24.4 per cent., the increase in 1944-45 production being 84 per cent.

(b) (i) 625 tons during 1945.

(ii) Nil.

(iii) During the year ending 31st October 1945, 371,134 tons groundnuts were exported on account of British Ministry of Food against a quota of 5 lakh tons.

(c) and (d). Exports of groundnuts until the present difficult food situation, were allowed only after meeting India's requirements for seed and edible purposes. But in view of the present food position the question is under immediate consideration.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the alarming figures of rising exports of groundnuts on behalf of the British Food Ministry, amounting to 3 crores 87 lakhs of rupees in the last 9 months of 1945 and 87 lakhs in last November alone, will the Honourable Member instead of saying that the question is under consideration give an assurance to this House that the export will be forthwith stopped?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** First of all, I cannot enter into a discussion as to the value of the figures. All I need point out is that actually, as against 3½ million tons of production, the figure of 371,000 tons bringing in 87 lakhs of rupees, if my Honourable friend's figures are correct, is really to the advantage of India. As I said before, I am not prepared not only to give an assurance but to go further and say that we have already taken definite steps in the matter. If my Honourable friend wants further details, he will have to wait for a few days.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** While the question of India receiving more food from the Food Board is in the balance, will Government at least suspend further export from this country?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I can assure my Honourable friend that the Government of India had been fully cognizant of that matter some time before and steps have been taken.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that according to the Government's own marketing report on groundnuts two or three semi-monopoly concerns have got very great control over the marketing of groundnuts, will Government take care to assure decent prices to the producers of groundnut?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azisul Huque:** I am afraid I have been asked to enter into a question which is wholly different from the question at issue.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know from the Honourable Member if the fall in the export of groundnut is due to any policy adopted by the Government of India?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azisul Huque:** I feel that I have repeatedly made my point clear that it is to the interests of the people in this country, the growers and agriculturists, that, if there is a surplus production in this country, it should go abroad and we should fetch as much price as we can. But having regard to the fact that only 871,000 tons of groundnut has been allowed out of 3½ million tons, Government is more on the conservative side in conserving the food resources of the country.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not equally in the interests of the producers of raw materials in this country that they should be assured of a definite price for this?

**Mr. President:** Order, Order: Next question.

#### REFORM COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

149. **\*Mr. Mann Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state what work the office of the Reforms Commissioner has been doing?

(b) When was the office of the Reforms Commissioner created?

(c) Who were the occupants?

(d) What was the work done by these officers?

(e) What were the reports or proposals prepared by them?

(f) What instructions were given to them?

(g) Will a copy of these reports be placed in the library of the Assembly for the information of the Members of the Assembly?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The Office of the Reforms Commissioner is an organisation in the Governor-General's Secretariat. Its functions at present may be briefly stated as to advise the Governor-General on Constitutional matters, to interpret the Government of India Act on its constitutional, as distinct from its legal aspects, and to serve as a nucleus office in connection with the preparation of the future Constitution.

(b) 1980.

(c) Sir James Dunnett, Sir Hawthorne Lewis, Mr. H. V. Hodson and Mr. V. P. Menon.

(d), (e) and (f). The Reforms Commissioner and his office have in the past been mainly concerned with the work connected with the framing of the present Constitution Act and its implementation. The Reforms Commissioner does not submit any periodical report, nor is he charged with the preparation of any particular proposals.

(g) Does not arise.

**Mr. Mann Subedar:** In view of the fact that this office was created in 1980, if I have heard my Honourable friend aright, do I take it that this is a permanent institution always framing reforms as part of the Government in this country?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I explained that it was connected with the framing and the implementation of the Act.

#### STUDENTS SENT ABROAD FOR HIGHER STUDIES

150. **\*Mr. Mann Subedar:** (a) Will the Education Secretary please state how many students have been sent abroad with Government assistance and how many have been permitted to go on their own for educational purposes during the calendar year 1945?

(b) What is the number of persons who have proceeded for educational purposes to Great Britain, U. S. A., and other countries?

(c) What is the number from each of the major Provinces and from the Indian States?

(d) In the case of those who have gone to U. S. A., what is the total amount of dollar exchange permitted for those who have gone for educational purposes?

(e) Who decides on the relative priority of students applying for going abroad, and on what principles?

(f) What reasons, if any, have been given to those whose applications have been refused?

**Dr. John Sargent:** (a) 429 students, sponsored by the Government of India or Provincial Governments or Indian States, were sent abroad for advanced studies in 1945. No exact figures are available in respect of private students who have gone abroad at their own expense, but it is estimated that priority passages to the United Kingdom were recommended for about 500 private students during 1945.

(b) Of the 429 persons referred to in (a) above, 253 have gone to the United Kingdom and 176 to the United States of America.

(c) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(d) In the case of Central Government scholars going to the United States of America, they are allowed in addition to the steamer fare from India, Rs. 500 for equipment. They are also allowed £5 or its equivalent in dollars and £5 for incidental expenses during passage and \$300 on arrival in the United States of America as advance on account of the stipend for the first quarter. The exact value of stipend has not yet been fixed in the case of each student, but it will in all cases be sufficient to cover the tuition charges and maintenance, including travel during the vacations for educational purposes.

(e) It is not clear whether this relates to applications for priority passages or applications for dollar exchange facilities. Priority passages are granted by the Civil Passage Controller and dollar exchange facilities by the Reserve Bank. The Civil Passage Controller and the Reserve Bank consult the Department of Education where necessary. In regard to passages to the United States of America, passages on the American flag vessels are ultimately controlled by the United States military authorities, while no priorities or permits are required for passages on commercial vessels. Civilian Passages to the United Kingdom only are now controlled by Government.

(f) It is understood that the Civil Passage Controller gives reasons when he rejects any applications for priority passages. The main reason for refusing an application is that the student concerned has not secured admission to an Educational Institution abroad.

*Statement showing the candidates sponsored by the Provincial Governments and Indian States who were sent abroad for advanced studies in 1945*

Province or State	Number of	
	U.K.	students sent to U.S.A.
Madras . . . . .	26	17
Bombay . . . . .	9	10
Bengal . . . . .	11	7
United Provinces . . . . .	5	1
Central Provinces . . . . .	9	5
Punjab . . . . .	2	10
Bihar . . . . .	8	1
Orissa . . . . .	10	4
Assam . . . . .	3	3
Sind . . . . .	10	4
North West Frontier Province . . . . .	1	8
Baroda . . . . .	1	..

Province or State	Number of U.K.	students sent to U.S.A.
Bikaner . . . . .	..	1
Cochin . . . . .	1	1
Bhavnagar . . . . .	..	1
Hyderabad . . . . .	9	5
Jaipur . . . . .	..	1
Kalahandi . . . . .	..	1
Kapurthala . . . . .	1	..
Kashmir . . . . .	..	1
Kotah . . . . .	..	1
Mayurbhanj . . . . .	..	1
Mysore . . . . .	2	1
Patiala . . . . .	..	1
Travancore . . . . .	6	2

The figures in respect of Indian States may not in all cases represent the correct position as some States have made their own travel arrangements. The Government of India have so far recommended the grant of priority passages to 34 students for the United Kingdom and for 17 student to the United States of America.

**Mr. Mannu Subedar:** Do I gather from my Honourable friend that it is the Education Department under him which decides ultimately the fate of an applicant and that is mainly due to his inability to get admission at the other place? What are the other reasons why so many applications have been rejected?

**Dr. John Sargent:** There have been one or two cases where I have advised students, when they had indifferent qualifications or they were very young, that it would be in their advantage to complete a course in an Indian University before proceeding abroad. That is the advice which has been given to us by the head of Institutions both in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. I should think, however, that in 90 per cent. of the cases, where we have refused applications, the reason was that the students had not been successful in obtaining admission to an institution, and it is extremely desirable at this particularly difficult time that before the students go abroad, they should have obtained admission to an institution.

**Mr. Mannu Subedar:** Is it not a fact that applications have been kept pending in the Honourable Member's Department for months at a time?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I hope not.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is the Honourable Member aware that a number of Honours graduates, who had completed their course, have been asked once again to start their Honours course in America?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I am not aware of that. I shall be glad to have notice of that question.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** May I know on what principle the priority is given to the students who were not awarded scholarships by the Government and who were nominated by various institutions?

**Dr. John Sargent:** We have treated them exactly on the same lines as the students selected by Government.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** May I know if it is not a fact that a student who was nominated by the Aligarh University and who had got admission already in one of the Universities, was not given this priority?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I should be glad to look into this case, but our practice has been to treat these students exactly on the same lines whether they were going on Government grants or on private grants.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** On what principle this priority was not given to this particular student who had already secured admission and who had certificates of the Professors with him? He was to carry on research work and yet he has been waiting all the time and no priority certificate has been given to him?

**Dr. John Sargent:** If the Honourable Member will give me information about that case, I will look into the matter.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I have already written to the Department three times.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** With regard to part (c) of the question, may I ask on what basis the allocation of the number of students has been made with respect to each province, particularly Madras? Is it according to the population or is it according to the number of applicants?

**Dr. John Sargent:** According to the number which the Provinces themselves asked for.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Are there not students who have been sent directly by the Provincial Governments irrespective of the number sent by the Government of India?

**Dr. John Sargent:** The total number of scholarships was divided on the basis of roughly 50:50 between the Provinces and the Government of India. So far as the number of provincial scholarships is concerned, it depended on the requirements specified by the Provincial Committees. There was some scaling down because the total number of requirements were larger than the total number of scholarships offered.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** May I know whether the Government of India do not make arrangements for the admission of these students? Do they not make arrangements with the colleges authorities by their own effort?

**Dr. John Sargent:** As I explained already, we now have Educational Liaison Officers, who were members of the staff of my Department. They are fully aware of the requirements of the Government. They are working in London and the United States of America. Whenever a student who was going either at Government expense or at his own expense applied for assistance, we endeavoured to render him every assistance. In spite of difficulties, we have been able to secure passages for a considerable number of students. But some students, at present, either because they are not aware of the arrangements or because they prefer to be independent make their own application for admission, and of course, in this case, naturally we would be glad if they secure admission, but if they cannot get admission, we cannot help it.

### (b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

#### DATE FOR OFFICIAL TERMINATION OF WAR

151. \*Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House kindly state if they have decided about the date from which the war will be deemed to have ended?

(b) If not, will Government kindly give the reasons as to why they are delaying such a decision?

(c) What is the approximate date when they propose to arrive at a decision about this date?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to questions No. 9 and 16, on the subject, by Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad and Mr. Leslie Gwilt respectively, on the 5th of this month.

#### REHOUSING OF RESIDENTS OF WARD 14, DELHI

152. \*Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddique: (a) With reference to the statement laid on the table of the House on the 4th April, 1945, in reply to part (d) of Starred Question No. 449 asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, M.L.A., on the 21st February, 1945, will the Health Secretary be pleased to state the standard by which the residents of Ward No. 14 Delhi, will be judged as eligible for re-housing under the Poormen Housing Scheme?

(b) Will Government please assure this House that those people of Ward No. 14 whose land will be acquired, will be definitely provided with accommodation under the Delhi Re-housing Scheme?

(c) In what locality do Government propose to house the persons of Ward No. 14 after the Serai Purani Idgah Slum Clearance and Development Scheme has been sanctioned?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulgam:** (a) The conditions under which persons shall be eligible for the benefits of the rehousing scheme are at present under consideration.

(b) Only persons whose income is within the limits to be laid down will be provided with accommodation under the scheme.

(c) The matter is still under the consideration of the Trust.

#### SERAI PURANI IDGAH SLUM CLEARANCE AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

**153. \*Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddique:** Will the Health Secretary please state if, in view of new Section 24(a) of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act (VIII of 1919) as extended to Delhi, the market value of property intended to be acquired under the Serai Purani Idgah Slum Clearance and Development Scheme has been fixed? If not, why not, and by what date will it be fixed?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulgam:** The scheme referred to has not yet been approved by the Delhi Improvement Trust and the question of acquisition of land has not yet arisen.

#### SERAI PURANI IDGAH SLUM CLEARANCE AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

**154. \*Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddique:** (a) Will the Health Secretary please state whether the Serai Purani Idgah Slum Clearance and Development Scheme has been submitted to Government for sanction under section 40 of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act (VIII of 1919) as extended to Delhi?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, when will the Committee for hearing objections of persons concerned be appointed by the Delhi Improvement Trust?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulgam:** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### DEARTH OF ACCOMMODATION IN DELHI AND NEW DELHI

**155. \*Sir Hassan Suhrawardy:** (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware that, in spite of the cessation of hostilities, there is still a great dearth of accommodation in Delhi and New Delhi?

(b) Is he aware that, in spite of the promulgation of the New Delhi Rent Control Order and the Delhi Rent Control Ordinance, landlords are still harassing tenants and taking advantage of every possible loophole in the law?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of keeping the aforesaid enactments in force until normal conditions prevail at least and until this Assembly enacts some law to regulate the relations between landlords and tenants in the Delhi Province?

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

(b) I have not received any complaints recently.

(c) It is the intention of the Government of India that rents should continue to be controlled in New Delhi and Delhi until normal conditions return.

#### INDIA'S RELIEF CONTRIBUTION TO U. N. R. R. A.

**156. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the amount of money contributed by India towards relief by the UNRRA during the year 1945-1946;

(b) what proportion that amount bears to the total contribution to the organisation;

(c) what proportion of the total has so far been spent in relief in Europe and in Asia;

(d) the total strength of the staff of the UNRRA;

(e) how many Indian nationals Hindus, Muslims or Christians, and others are on the staff of the organisation and what pay or allowances they draw;

(f) if he proposes to place on the table the latest report of the UNRRA;

(g) whether any portion of the funds of the UNRRA is spent for the benefit of the German or Italian or other European people; and

(h) whether any portion of the funds is or is proposed to be spent for the relief of the Japanese and other far eastern nations, like the Indo-Chinese and the Indonesians, who have suffered heavily in the recent fighting in Java and Indo-China, and in India which is affected by famine, if so, what the amount is?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azisul Huque:** (a) and (b). India's total contribution to UNRRA amounts to Rs. 8 crores. This was approximately 1.3 per cent. of the total contributions made, authorised or promised to UNRRA up to the 30th September 1945.

(c) Up to the 30th September 1945, approximately 63 per cent. of the total amount contributed to UNRRA by all member Governments was spent in Europe and 0.02 per cent. was spent in Asia. As far as our information goes, only token aid could be given to China during this period as war in the Far East ended later than in Europe. But in 1946, relief supplies worth 87.0 million dollars are proposed to be sent to China.

(d) The total strength of the UNRRA staff excluding voluntary and local service personnel is 9,081.

(e) A statement is laid on the table.

(f) Five copies of the latest published Report of the Director General to the UNRRA Council have been placed in the Library.

(g) UNRRA assistance is being given to the following European countries, viz. Poland, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, Albania, Yugoslavia, Greece and to a limited extent Italy.

(h) The Government of India have no information whether UNRRA proposes to extend its activities to Japan, Indo-China or Indonesia. No assistance was asked for from UNRRA in respect of India.

*List of Indian Personnel employed by U. N. R. R. A.*

Name	Designation	Salary	Religion
Casim A. Soorma*	Recruiting Officer and Officer on Special Duty, New Delhi.	\$ 6,550 annum.	per Muslima
S. N. Gupta . . .	Recently recruited by UNRRA Headquarters in Washington, DC.	..	Christian
G. V. Ganeshan . . .	Accountant, Washington, DC.	\$ 4,250 annum.	per Hindu
Mrs. G. Johnstone . . .	Secretary to Liaison Officer, New Delhi.	Rs. 400 mensem.	per Christian
V. Ramamurthy . . .	Secretary to Recruiting Officer, New Delhi.	Rs. 400 mensem.	per Hindu
K. N. Viswanath . . .	Procurement Recorder, New Delhi.	Rs. 400 mensem.	per Hindu
S. N. Jaitley . . .	General Clerk, New Delhi . . .	Rs. 300 mensem.	per Hindu
Motilal Mehra . . .	Office Assistant, New Delhi . . .	Rs. 50 mensem.	per Hindu
Bishan Des . . .	Office Bearer, New Delhi . . .	Rs. 40 mensem.	per Hindu
Rafeeq Ahmed . . .	Office Bearer, New Delhi . . .	Rs. 40 mensem.	per Muslima

\* Indian domiciled in Burma.

## APPOINTMENT OF LT.-COL. FRASER AS DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

157. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to an article from a special correspondent in the *Hindustan Times* of the 27th October, 1945, regarding the appointment of one Lt.-Col. D. M. Fraser as the Director of Public Health Services;

(b) if the appointment has already been filled and if so, whether applications were called for through the Federal Public Service Commission or otherwise, and scrutinised by the proper authorities;

(c) the outstanding qualifications of Col. Fraser which led to his selection and whether he had any training or experience in Public Health Services;

(d) whether the claims of suitable Indians were considered before this appointment was made;

(e) the number of suitable Indian applicants with their academic qualifications and professional experience; and

(f) whether the claims of Indian officers senior to him in rank or service were considered and superseded; if so, on what grounds?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) Yes.

(b) The appointment has been filled. As the post has been filled by the appointment of an officer of the Indian Medical Service, no applications were called for.

(c) The officer selected has a distinguished record of service in military and civil employment. He has no experience in public health service except when in charge of the combined medical relief and hygiene military organisation which operated in Bengal during 1943 and 1944.

(d) and (f). The suitability of all available officers of the Indian Medical Service within the range of selection was considered. As the appointment was filled purely by selection no question of supersession of any officer arises.

(e) As already stated in the reply to part (b) no applications were called for.

## MANUFACTURE OF TRACTORS AND FERTILISERS

158. \*Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors that have been purchased by the Government of India, the countries from which they were purchased, the cost at which they were purchased for the past two years, and how they have been distributed by the provinces;

(b) if any tractor is manufactured in India and if not whether any attempt was made to place orders with Tatas or any other firm of manufacturers;

(c) if any factory or factories have been opened in India for the manufacture of fertilisers within the past two years; if so, the places and their number in each province;

(d) whether any fertilisers are manufactured in India and if so, their names; and

(e) the additional area cultivated under rice in India as a whole and Madras in particular, and the facilities provided by Government in their 'Grow More Foodgrains' campaign in the past two years?

Sir Pherose Kharegat: (a) 102 Grawler tractors of the total value of 352,500 dollars have been procured from the U.S.A. during the past two years. These tractors were obtained under Lease-Lend and cash payment to an extent of 48,800 dollars only has to be made for the tractors which were outstanding against Lease-Lend contracts before declaration of V-J Day. Eight of these tractors have not yet been shipped from the U.S.A. 19 arrived recently and have not yet been distributed. A statement showing the distribution of the remaining 75 tractors is laid on the table.

(b) No. It was not practicable to start tractor manufacture in India during the war.

(c) So far as is known, a pilot plant for the production of superphosphates has been erected in Delhi province and another plant for the production of sulphate of ammonia is under erection in Travancore. Further information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) The following fertilisers are being manufactured in India: (1) Sulphate of Ammonia, (2) Superphosphate, (3) Bone Meal, (4) Potassium nitrate, and (5) Muriate of potash.

(e) The average acreage under rice during the two years 1943-44 and 1944-45 was 80.94 million acres as compared with 74.11 million acres the corresponding average of the preceding quinquennium, thus representing an additional area of 6.83 million acres. The corresponding figures for Madras are 10.81 million acres during the year 1943-44 and 1944-45 as compared with 10.21 million acres during the preceding quinquennium; this represents an additional area of six hundred thousand acres.

As regards the latter part of the question, the Central Government have given loans and grants to Provincial Governments for financing schemes relating to (i) irrigation, (ii) land reclamation and improvement, (iii) distribution of manures and fertilisers and improved seeds at concession rates, (iv) seed multiplication, (v) compost making and (vi) bonus to cultivators for diverting area from non-food crops to food crops. Arrangements were also made for the import of chemical fertilisers and agricultural machinery from abroad and assistance was given to Provincial Governments in securing (i) iron and steel for the manufacture of agricultural implements, (ii) coal for the manufacture of bricks for wells and (iii) cement for the construction of wells.

*A statement showing the distribution of 75 tractors*

Alottee	Number of tractors
Baluchistan Administration . . . . .	6
Bihar Government . . . . .	5
Bombay Government . . . . .	38
Madras Government . . . . .	4
Sind Government . . . . .	1
United Provinces Government . . . . .	6
Army Authorities (Q. M. G.) . . . . .	4
Imperial Agricultural Research Institute . . . . .	2
Baroda State . . . . .	2
Bundi State . . . . .	1
Mysore State . . . . .	2
Reserved for Central Tractor Station . . . . .	4
	Total . . . . . 75

**FAMINE CONDITION IN MADRAS DISTRICTS**

159. \*Sri E. Benkatasubba Reddiar: (a) Is the Food Secretary aware that the whole of South India and West India had no seasonal rains and that famine conditions are prevailing in Chittoor, other Royalaseema districts and almost in all the southern districts of Madras Presidency? Will he please state the percentage of yield of foodgrains expected this year in those areas?

(b) Are Government aware that the districts of Royalaseema are constantly affected by famine? If so, have Government taken any steps or afforded any facilities for irrigation and cultivation by this or provincial Governments?

(c) What is the amount standing to the credit of the Central Famine Relief Fund?

(d) Do Government propose to send adequate contribution to the famine stricken area in the Madras Presidency?

(e) What parts of this country are expected to be affected by famine or unfavourable conditions this year and what steps are proposed to be taken for relief in those areas?

**Mr. B. R. Sen:** (a) Government are aware of the failure of monsoon in South and West India and of the difficult food position prevailing in the districts of Madras mentioned by the Honourable Member. The yield of food-grains in these areas is likely to be 10 to 50 per cent. below normal.

(b) Yes, Sir.

The Central Government have sanctioned grants to the extent of Rs. 1,27,700 for 11 schemes in Anantapur circle for providing irrigation facilities.

In addition, the Madras Government have taken up two irrigation schemes in Kurnool district.

(c) There is no Central Famine Relief Fund.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Foodgrains shortage is likely to arise in the Southern Districts of Bombay, Madras, Mysore, the Deccan States and the Western India States. The measures proposed by the Government of India to cope with these shortages were described by the Honourable the Food Member in the recent Food debate in the House.

#### HOUSE PERMIT TAKEN BY MR. PATHER UNDER PEGGING ACT

**100. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Pather in Natal has taken a permit, under the Pegging Act, to acquire and occupy a house which is already occupied by a white person and that he has thereafter taken legal action to get the house vacated from its white occupant to occupy it himself?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, is it a fact that Mr. Pather has not yet been able to get possession of that house in spite of the legal remedy sought by him?

(c) Are Government aware that a section of the white community is determined to set fire to that building if the present occupant is ejected by the court and Mr. Pather takes up residence in it?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** (a) and (b). Mr. Pather has obtained a permit under the Pegging Act to occupy a house in Durban which is presumably occupied by a European at present. He has not however taken any legal action to get it vacated. He has not yet been able to get possession of the house.

(c) Government have no information except that at an open air protest meeting of the Europeans to demonstrate against the Minister's refusal to rescind the permit, members of the audience remarked that they would take steps to prevent Mr. Pather from occupying the house.

#### ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

**161. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state whether Government propose to enforce economic sanctions against South Africa and also call back the High Commissioner for India from South Africa as a protest against the statement of the South African Premier made in the South African Parliament, while introducing the commonly called 'Freezing Bill' and also against the policy of racial Fascism initiated by him?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the debate that took place in the House on the 4th February, on the adjournment motion on the subject.

#### FREEZING ACT *vis a vis* PEGGING ACT

**162. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state if it is a fact that under the Pegging Act immovable property in South Africa could be acquired and occupied by Indians on taking necessary permits? If so, will he lay on the table a statement showing the names of the persons who have acquired and occupied immovable property in Natal since the enactment of the Pegging Act?

(b) What difference will there be between the Pegging Act and the so-called Freezing Act which is sought to be introduced by Field Marshal Smuts in South Africa, and will this Freezing Act be a permanent Act or a temporary measure like the Pegging Act?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The information wanted in the second part is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when received.

(b) Government have no official information yet about the precise provisions of the proposed bill. I would however invite the Honourable Member's attention to the debate which took place in the House on the 4th February 1946, on the subject.

#### ENFRANCHISEMENT OF INDIANS IN NATAL AND TRANSVAAL

163. \***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state whether there is any possibility of Indians in Natal and Transvaal being enfranchised for Local Self-Government and parliamentary institutions? If so, will this franchise be direct or indirect?

\* **Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** Government of India have had un-official information that the Union Government have been considering certain proposals for granting Indians a limited franchise on a communal roll. Such franchise is intended to give Indians the right to elect Europeans to represent them in local bodies and provincial and Union legislatures. I am unable to say whether these proposals will materialise.

#### RECIPROCIITY MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

164. \***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state what reciprocity measures have been taken so far against the South African whites visiting and staying in India, and the reasons for failure of the Government of India to segregate them for residence and travelling?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** Copies of all the three sets of rules made under the Reciprocity Act are laid on the table of the House. Briefly, all persons of non-Indian origin domiciled in South Africa have been declared "Prohibited immigrants" and as such are not allowed to enter, and reside in, British India without obtaining exemptions or entry permits. On the same principles on which such permits are granted to Indians in South Africa, only temporary entry permits are granted for short periods not exceeding one year at a time on payment of a fee of Rs. 15 and of a security deposit not exceeding Rs. 2,500. Ordinarily, a security deposit of Rs. 600 is actually levied.

Persons of non-Indian origin domiciled in the Natal and Transvaal provinces cannot, without a permit, acquire any property or occupy any land or premises in India which were not occupied by any South African of that class before the 1st December 1944.

A person of non-Indian origin domiciled anywhere in the Union except the Cape Province is debarred from the franchise of a local body in India, unless he had been on the electoral roll of that body before the commencement of the rules.

The number of South Africans residing and travelling in India is so small that it has not been practicable so far to devise measures for segregating them for purposes of residence and travelling.

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS NOTIFICATION.

*New Delhi, the 1st December 1944*

No. F. 170-2/43-O.S. (4).—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Reciprocity Act, 1943 (No. IX of 1943) and in pursuance of the direction made in respect of persons domiciled in the Union of South Africa under section 3 of the said Act in the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Commonwealth Relations No. F. 170-2/43-O. S. (1), dated the 3rd November 1944, the Central Government is pleased to make the following Rules, namely:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) These Rules may be called the Reciprocity (South Africa) Rules, 1944.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2 *Definitions.*—In these Rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) "the Act" means the Reciprocity Act, 1943.

(b) "prohibited immigrant" means any person not being of Indian origin who is domiciled in the Union of South Africa, other than—

(i) any person duly appointed by His Majesty or by the Government of the Union of South Africa to exercise diplomatic functions anywhere or to work as Trade Commissioner in India, and the family, staff and servants of such person;

(ii) any officer or member of the crew of any vessel for the time being used commercially for the carriage of passengers or cargo, while employed in his duties as such;

(iii) any member of the Armed Forces of His Majesty and the wife and legitimate children of such member, until the expiry of six months after the termination of the present hostilities;

(iv) any person born in British India before the commencement of the Act;

(v) any person born anywhere after the commencement of the Act whose parents were at the time of his birth domiciled in British India, provided that such person if born outside British India is brought into British India within three years from the date of his birth;

(vi) the wife and legitimate children, who have been proved to be so to the satisfaction of the Immigration Commissioner or Officer concerned, of any person described in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v), provided that any such child seeking to enter British India after the commencement of these Rules shall be accompanied by his mother, unless she is deceased or already resident in British India at the time;

(c) "vessel" includes aircraft.

3. *Bar on entry into British India.*—Save as provided in these Rules no prohibited immigrant shall enter British India.

4. *Deportation.*—The Central Government may by order in writing direct any prohibited immigrant for the time being resident in British India to leave British India within such time as may be specified in the order.

5. *Licence to trade restricted.*—(1) Except with the permission in writing previously obtained of the Central Government, no prohibited immigrant may obtain any licence or permit to trade required by or under any law for the time being in force.

(2) Any such licence or permit obtained before the commencement of these Rules shall on the expiry of three months from the commencement of these Rules become void unless within that period permission in respect thereof has been obtained under sub-rule (1).

6. *Immigration Commissioners and Immigration Officers.*—(1) The Central Government may appoint such persons as it thinks fit to be Immigration Commissioners, or Immigration Officers for the purposes of these Rules within such local limits as it may respectively assign to them.

(2) An Immigration Commissioner shall have general control over all Immigration Officers within the local limits of his jurisdiction, and may exercise all the powers of an Immigration Officer under these Rules. He shall be officially subordinate to such authority as the Central Government may specify in this behalf.

(2) Every Immigration Commissioner and Immigration Officer shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code.

7. *Procedure at ports in relation to prohibited immigrants.*—(1) If after inspection of the returns required under the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, or otherwise, and after giving the person concerned a reasonable opportunity of representing that he is not a prohibited immigrant, the Immigration Officer is of opinion that any person is a prohibited immigrant, he may, in lieu of proceeding against such person for a contravention of rule 3, by order in writing—

(a) require such person to leave British India by the same vessel on which he arrived, and not to leave the vessel (or in the case of arrival by aircraft, the precincts of the airport) pending the departure of the vessel; or

(b) if it appears to the Immigration Officer on the representation of the master of the vessel that the person should be required to depart from British India otherwise than on the vessel on which he arrived, and if the master of the vessel deposits such sum not exceeding fifteen hundred rupees as the Immigration Officer considers necessary for covering the expenses incurred in maintaining the person and removing him from British India, cause the person to be removed in custody from the vessel and detained in such place as may be convenient pending the departure of a suitable vessel on which he may be placed:

Provided that if the person undertakes in writing to comply with such conditions as the Immigration Officer may think fit to impose (which shall include reporting to the Immigration Officer in person at least once in every twenty-four hours), and if the Immigration Officer is satisfied that the person has sufficient means at his immediate disposal to meet the expense of his maintenance and accommodation, the Immigration Officer may furnish the person with a permit authorising him to make his own arrangements for his stay in the port pending the departure of the vessel on which he is to leave British India.

(2) On taking any action under sub-rule (1), the Immigration Officer shall inform the person in writing of his rights of appeal under sub-rule (1) of rule 11 and shall also furnish the master of the vessel with a copy of his order.

8. *Procedure in doubtful cases.*—(1) If any person on arrival in British India fails to satisfy the Immigration Officer that he is not a prohibited immigrant, and if such person deposits such sum not exceeding fifteen hundred rupees as the Immigration Officer may require as security for the observance of the hereinafter mentioned conditions (which sum such person shall agree shall be liable to be forfeited to His Majesty if the said person fails to observe any of the said conditions), the Immigration Officer may, in lieu of proceeding under rule 7, grant such person a permit in Form A permitting him to enter British India and to remain therein for such period not exceeding one year as may be specified in the permit, subject to observance of the conditions set out in the permit.

(2) Upon issuing a permit under sub-rule (1), the Immigration Officer shall make such further enquiries as he may consider necessary and shall, as soon as possible and in any event before the expiry of the period specified in the permit, decide whether or not the said person is a prohibited immigrant. He shall forthwith inform the person of such decision.

(3) If such decision is to the effect that the person is prohibited immigrant, Immigration Officer shall also inform him in writing of his rights of appeal under sub-rule (1) of rule 11 or if such decision is to the effect that the person is not a prohibited immigrant the Immigration Officer shall forthwith issue to the said person a declaration to such effect in Form B and shall return the deposit made in accordance with sub-rule (1).

(4) For the purposes of determining domicile in British India, the period spent in British India, under a permit issued under sub-rule (1) in respect of which a declaration in Form B is subsequently issued shall not be deemed to have been a conditional or temporary residence.

9. *Saving as to mistake, etc.*—(1) No prohibited immigrant shall be exempt from the provisions of these Rules or be allowed to remain in British India by reason only that he had not been informed that he might not enter or remain in British India, or that he had been allowed to enter or remain through oversight or mistake or owing to the fact having been undiscovered that he was a prohibited immigrant.

(2) If it appears to the Immigration Commissioner that a declaration in Form B has by any such reason as aforesaid been erroneously issued to any person, he may, after giving such person a reasonable opportunity of being heard, cancel the declaration and order the person to surrender it.

10. *Appellate Authorities.*—The Central Government may by notification in the official Gazette constitute in such manner as it may think fit Appellate Authorities for the purposes of these Rules within such local limits as may be specified in the notification.

11. *Appeals.*—(1) Every person against whom any order is passed by the Immigration Commissioner or the Immigration Officer may appeal in writing through the Immigration Commissioner or Immigration Officer, as the case may be, to the Appellate Authority having jurisdiction within three clear days of the order appealed against or in respect of an order passed under clause (a) of sub-rule (1) of rule 7, before the departure of the vessel on which the appellant arrived, whichever is earlier:

Provided that the presentation of an appeal shall not authorise a person to remain in British India in contravention of the order appealed against unless the appellant deposits with the Immigration Officer such sum not exceeding one thousand rupees as the Immigration Officer may consider necessary to meet the expenses of the appellant's maintenance in British India during the pendency of the appeal and of his possible removal from British India thereafter.

(2) Save that the Central Government may review any order of the Appellate Authority which has the effect of causing the removal of any person from British India the decision of the Appellate Authority shall be final.

(3) Save as provided in this rule no appeal application for revision or review shall lie in respect of any order passed under these rules.

12. *Penalties.*—Whoever—

(a) contravenes the provisions of any of these Rules or of any order made or condition imposed thereunder, or

(b) escapes from any custody or detention in which he is placed under these Rules, or

(c) attempts to commit, or by any act or omission abets or otherwise facilitates the commission of, any offence specified in clause (a) or clause (b) shall be punishable with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

13. *Jurisdiction.*—No Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under these Rules, and no Court shall take cognisance of any such offence except upon the complaint of an Immigration Officer.

14. *Exemptions.*—The Central Government may, if it thinks fit,—

(a) by order exempt any person from all or any of the provisions of these Rules;

(b) authorise the issue of a temporary permit in Form C on payment of a fee of Rs. 15 to any prohibited immigrant to enter and reside in or to remain in British India or in any specified part thereof or place therein on any or all conditions laid down in the permit, after

requiring such person to deposit a sum not exceeding two thousand and five hundred rupees as security for the observance of the conditions;"

Provided that the period of validity of such permit shall not exceed one year, though the permit may from time to time be renewed by order of the Central Government for periods not exceeding one year at any one time :

Provided further that the residence of prohibited immigrant in British India authorised or permitted under this rule shall not be taken into account in determining whether or not he has acquired a domicile in British India.

15. *Temporary permits for transit.*—If the Immigration Commissioner/Officer is satisfied that a prohibited immigrant has entered British India only for the bonafide purpose of proceeding without interruption to some destination outside British India, he may grant to such prohibited immigrant a temporary permit in Form C on payment of a fee of Rs. 15 to enter British India and remain therein for such period as may be necessary for that purpose, on any or all the conditions laid down in the permit, after requiring such person to deposit a sum not exceeding two thousand and five hundred rupees as security for the observance of the aforesaid conditions.

16. *Certificates of identity.*—(1) The Central Government may, if it thinks fit, authorise the Immigration Commissioner to issue a certificate of identity to any person lawfully resident in British India who, desiring to proceed to the Union of South Africa with the intention of returning therefrom, is for any reason apprehensive that he will be unable on returning to British India to prove that he is not a prohibited immigrant.

(2) The High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa may, if he thinks fit, issue a certificate of identity to any person of Indian origin who, desiring to proceed to British India, is for any reason apprehensive that he will be unable on arrival in British India to prove that he is not a prohibited immigrant.

(3) An application for a certificate of identity under this rule shall be made not less than thirty days before the applicant's departure, and where the application is under sub-rule (1), through the Immigration Commissioner.

17. *Protection to persons acting under these Rules.*—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under these Rules.

18. *Application of other laws not barred.*—The provisions of these Rules shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force.

19. *Regulations.*—The Central Government may make regulations not inconsistent with the Act or these Rules providing for the procedure to be observed by Appellate Tribunals and for such other incidental or supplementary matters connected with the purposes of these Rules as the Central Government may think expedient.

FORM A

(To be prepared in duplicate and signed by the person to whom the permit is granted).

Whereas....., having arrived at.....on <sup>as</sup> aircraft.....  
 ..... has failed to satisfy me, ..... Immigration Commissioner,  
 ..... Officer.....

....., that he is not prohibited immigrant within the meaning of the Reciprocity (South Africa) Rules, 1944;

And whereas the said..... has deposited with me the sum of..... rupees as required by sub-rule (1) of rule 8 of the said Rules as security for his/her observance of the hereinafter stated conditions;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by the said sub-rule, I hereby permit the said..... to enter British India and remain there subject to the hereinafter stated conditions until.....

*Conditions*

1. The said..... shall, unless this permit is subsequently modified, removed himself/herself from British India not later than the date above mentioned.

2. Upon failure to observe the above condition the above mentioned sum shall be forfeited to His Majesty, without prejudice to any punishment to which the said..... may be liable under rule 12 of the said Rules.

Date.....  
 .....  
Immigration Commissioner  
Officer

I have read and understood and agree to abide by all the above stated conditions.

(Signature).....

## Copy of rule 12

## 12. Penalties.—Whoever—

- (a) contravenes the provisions of any of these Rules or of any order made or condition imposed thereunder, or  
 (b) escapes from any custody or detention in which he is placed under these Rules, or  
 (c) attempts to commit, or by any act or omission abets or otherwise facilitates the commission, of any offence specified in clause (a) or clause (b) shall be punishable with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

## FORM B

Whereas.....was on.....and under Permit No.....permitted conditionally to enter and remain in British India;

And whereas as the result of further enquiries I.....

Immigration Commissioner .....am satisfied that the said .....  
Officer

is not a prohibited immigrant within the meaning of the Reciprocity (South Africa) Rules, 1944;

Now, therefore, in pursuance of sub-rule (3) of rule 8 of the said Rules, I hereby declare the said.....not to be a prohibited immigrant as aforesaid and absolve him/her from all obligation under the said permit.

## FORM C.

Temporary Permit,

Fee Rs. 15 (Rupees Fifteen only).

File No.

No.

Sum deposited

Rupees

(Rs.     ).

By

(The deposit hereon will be refunded on production of this permit when the holder leaves British India upon satisfactory evidence that the conditions and requirements imposed have been fulfilled).

Subject to the conditions and requirements stated hereunder, the holder a person of South African domicile of non-Indian origin is permitted to enter British India at ..... for the purpose of

.....  
 Immigration Commissioner/Officer.

Date of issue.

Place of issue.

This permit is issued subject to the following conditions and requirements and to the provisions of the Reciprocity (South Africa) Rules, 1944 :—

(1) The holder of this permit shall intimate to the Immigration Commissioner/Officer his residential address in India and shall keep him informed of any subsequent change of address.

(2) The holder of this permit shall leave British India on or before (Date) without expense to the Government.

(3) The holder of this permit shall report to the ..... at intervals of ..... and shall keep that officer fully advised of his whereabouts.

(4) The holder of this permit shall give to the ..... at least twenty-four hours' notice (excluding Sundays and public holidays) of his intended departure from British India.

(5) The holder of this permit shall secure proper endorsement on the reverse hereof of any extension of the period of availability of this permit from an Immigration Commissioner/Officer duly authorized by the Central Government.

(6) This permit will be held to be invalidated, and the deposit thereon shall be forfeited to the Government, if the permit-holder or the depositor named herein or other person concerned is shown to the Immigration Commissioner/Officer to have made a false declaration or false representations in applying for, or securing this permit.

(7) Any breach of the above conditions will involve the forfeiture of the deposit lodged hereunder and will render the holder to be further dealt with according to rule 12 of the said Rules.

(8) The deposit lodged as security for this permit shall be regarded as continued and extended by an extension of the permit made, or authorized to be made by an Immigration Commissioner/Officer.

I/We have read and understood and agree to abide by all the above stated conditions.

(Holder's signature)

(Depositor's signature)

Thumb Impression on Issue

Thumb Impression on Surrender

	Taken by..... At..... On.....
--	-------------------------------------

	Taken by..... At..... On.....
--	-------------------------------------

(Reverse of the permit)  
Extensions

.....  
.....

Final Disposition of Case

.....

Immigration Commissioner/Officer.

Depto.

RECEIPT

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the sum of (Rs. )  
being the refund of the deposit made by me in respect of this permit.

Signed

Receipt Stamp.

Witness.

Date.

Place.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS  
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 1st December 1944

No. F.-170-2/43-O. S. (5).—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6 of the Reciprocity Act, 1943 (No. IX of 1943) and in pursuance of the direction made in respect of persons domiciled in either of the Provinces of Natal and Transvaal of the Union of South Africa under section 3 of the said Act in the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Commonwealth Relations No. F. 170-2/43-O. S. (2), dated the 3rd November 1944, the Central Government is pleased to make the following Rules, namely:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) These rules may be called the Reciprocity (Natal and the Transvaal) Rules, 1944.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2. *Definitions.*—In these Rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,

(a) "the Act" means the Reciprocity Act, 1943;

(b) "South African" means any person not being of Indian origin who is domiciled in either of the Provinces of Natal and the Transvaal of the Union of South Africa, other than—

(i) any person duly appointed by His Majesty or by the Government of the Union of South Africa to exercise diplomatic functions anywhere or otherwise to represent that Government in India, and the family, staff and servants of such person;

(ii) any officer or member of the crew of any vessel for the time being used commercially for the carriage of passengers or cargo, while employed in his duties as such;

(iii) any member of the Armed Forces of His Majesty and the wife and legitimate children of such member, until the expiry of six months after the termination of the present hostilities;

(iv) any person born in British India before the commencement of the Act;

(v) any person born anywhere after the commencement of the Act whose parents were at the time of his birth domiciled in British India, provided that such person if born outside British India is brought into British India within three years from the date of his birth;

(vi) the wife and legitimate children who have been proved to be so to the satisfaction of the Immigration Commissioner or Officer concerned of any person described in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v).

3. *Restrictions on agreements relating to immovable property.*—(1) Except under the authority of a permit issued under rule 5, no person shall enter into any agreement whereby a South African acquires or purports to acquire any title in any immovable property in British India, or any share in, or any debenture of, any company which is the owner of any such property.

(2) Without prejudice the provisions of rule 6, any agreement entered into in contravention of sub-rule (1) shall be null and void.

(3) Every agreement of the nature referred to in sub-rule (1) which is entered into on or after the 1st day of September 1943 and before the commencement of these Rules shall, on the expiry of three months after the commencement of these Rules, become null and void unless in the meantime a permit has been issued under rule 5 in respect of such agreement.

4. *Restrictions on occupation of land and premises.*—(1) Except under the authority of a permit issued under rule 5, no South African shall hire or occupy any land or premises in British India unless such land was or premises were, immediately prior to the commencement of these Rules occupied only by persons, not being of Indian origin, who are domiciled anywhere in the Union of South Africa.

(2) A lease of any land or premises entered into before the commencement of these Rules shall not authorise any South African to occupy such land or premises, as the case may be, unless the lessee under the lease was a South African and he was actually in occupation of the land or premises to which the lease relates immediately prior to the commencement of these Rules.

(3) The Court convicting a South African for a contravention of sub-rule (1) may, without prejudice to the provisions of rule 6, make an order for the ejectment of the person convicted from the land or premises in respect of which the contravention took place; and any such order shall on application made in this behalf by an officer authorised for the purpose by the Central Government, be executable by a Civil Court having jurisdiction in the area within which the land is or premises are situated, as if it were a decree for the delivery of actual possession of the land or premises passed by the said Civil Court.

5. *Permits.*—Subject to such general or special conditions as the Central Government may think fit to impose, the Central Government or any officer appointed by it in this behalf may issue a permit authorising:—

- (a) the entering into of an agreement of the nature referred to in sub-rule (1) of rule 3;
- (b) the hiring or occupation of land or premises by a South African.

6. *Penalties.*—If any South African contravenes any of the provisions of these Rules, he shall be punishable with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, and in the case of a continuing contravention, with a further fine at a rate not exceeding one hundred rupees for every day during which such contravention is continued.

7. *Jurisdiction.*—No court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under these Rules, and no court shall take cognisance of any such offence except upon the complaint of a police officer not below the rank of a Sub-Inspector.

A. V. PAI, Joint Secy.

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS NOTIFICATION

*New Delhi, the 1st December 1944*

No. F. 170-2/43-O. S. (6).—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Reciprocity Act, 1943 (No. IX of 1943), and in pursuance of the direction made in respect of persons domiciled in any of the Provinces of the Union of South Africa excepting the Cape Province under section 3 of the said Act in the notification of the Government of India, in the Department of Commonwealth Relations No. F. 170-2/43-O. S. (3), dated the 3rd November 1944, the Central Government is pleased to make the following Rules.

1. (1) These Rules may be called the Reciprocity (South Africa) (Local Franchise) Rules, 1944.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2. In these Rules, "South African" means a person not being of Indian origin, who is domiciled anywhere in the Union of South Africa elsewhere than in the Cape Province, but until the expiry of six months after the termination of the present hostilities, excludes any such person who is a member of His Majesty's Forces.

3. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, no South African shall be eligible for election to any local authority or to vote in any such election, unless his name was entered on the electoral roll of such local authority immediately prior to the commencement of these Rules.

A. V. PAI, Joint Secy.

## GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE IN ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S ELECTION

165. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Leader of the House been drawn to the newspaper reports regarding the part played by him in the recent election of the President?

(b) Is it a fact that he had committed the Government without any previous consultations in the Executive Council?

(c) Do Government propose to take any steps to prevent the recurrence of such a situation again?

(d) Do Government also propose to consider the advisability of official members of the Assembly not participating in such elections?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I have seen a number of press reports all of which are purely conjectural and most of which are inaccurate.

(b) In accordance with established practice I must decline to give any information with reference to the process by which a decision of Government was reached.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No.

## STUDENTS STRIKE IN DELHI POLYTECHNIC

166. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to make a statement regarding the students strike in the Delhi Polytechnic?

Dr. John Sargent: While I regret as much as anyone the events which have led to the present strike at the Delhi Polytechnic, I welcome this opportunity of making a statement which will, I hope, help to clear the air in regard to this unfortunate incident and lead to a prompt settlement of the dispute. Since the issues involved are somewhat complicated and since I fear that an incomplete or indefinite statement by me at this stage would do more harm than good, I must ask, Sir, for your indulgence and that of this House if I reply to this question at greater length than is usually permitted. I will, however, omit what seem to me to be minor issues and confine myself to what appear to be the main causes of complaint. These fall under two heads (i) that since their inception the senior Departments of the Polytechnic have never been properly staffed, housed, or equipped and (ii) that the National Diplomas and Certificates for several of which the Polytechnic offers courses have not yet been recognised generally for the purpose of employment either in Industry or in Government Service.

With regard to the former I do not think that anyone will charge me with trying to make out that our educational arrangements in this country are better than they actually are and I shall certainly not attempt to do so in the case of the Delhi Polytechnic. In order, however, to make clear what were the ideas which led to the establishment of this institution and how far they have been realised and how far they have not, I am afraid I must inflict on this House a little past history. When I came out to India in 1938, I was surprised to find that in Delhi, the Capital City and a large industrial Centre, there was no senior technical institution of any kind. It seemed to me therefore an obvious place in which to try out under Indian conditions recent experiments which had proved their value in my own country. One of these was a Technical High School, the aim of which is to provide, under normal high school conditions, a type of all round but practical education which will encourage young people of ability to seek employment in Industry. I do not think anyone has challenged the success of this experiment and as the Technical High School is not involved in the strike, I will not say any more about it. Nor need I refer to the important part which the Polytechnic has played in training war technicians since this was not one of the objects for which it was founded. Whether it was wise to proceed with the establishment of the senior departments in view of war-time difficulties in regard to staff, buildings and equipment, the nature, if not the extent, of which could be foreseen, is more open to doubt. Here I must take full responsibility for having advised Government to proceed. In this I was mainly influenced by the possibility of securing a competent Head for this new Institution and I

realised that in view of its experimental nature, it was unlikely that we should be able to find in India anyone with the requisite experience. An attempt to do so through the Federal Public Service Commission resulted in failure. I accordingly consulted Dr. Abbott, formerly Chief Technical Inspector of the Board of Education in Great Britain, who visited India in 1936-37 at the invitation of the Central Government to advise in regard to developments in technical education and whose report is pretty well known in educational circles, and after making enquiries he informed me that owing to a combination of circumstances, into which I need not enter, a gentleman, who enjoyed a high reputation as the Principal of a Technical College in Great Britain, would be prepared to accept our post on terms which would not normally have attracted a man of his standing, I felt that the opportunity was too good to be missed.

But although we were fortunate in securing a Principal, we were anything but fortunate in regard to the assistant staff. Owing to the great demand during the war for people with good technical qualifications we failed to get suitable men to fill the key posts of the Polytechnic although we made repeated attempts through the Federal Public Service Commission and after each failure increased the salaries offered. We only succeeded after a considerable interval in filling the Headships of the engineering, applied chemistry and architecture departments a few months ago, and it is fair to assume that the gentlemen in question had not had time to get hold of their Departments before this trouble started. In addition to this, owing to the higher salaries offered in Industry and Departments directly connected with war production, it has been difficult to retain the services of competent teachers on the staff with the result that there have been frequent changes which have been detrimental to the efficiency of the Institution. These staffing difficulties, regrettable as they have been, are not, I submit, evidence of negligence on the part of the authorities responsible for the Polytechnic. The dearth of higher grade technologists at the present time is generally admitted. Similarly with regard to buildings and equipment we have had the money but we have not been able to secure the necessary priorities in respect of many of the orders we have placed. Here again I submit there has been no negligence on the part of Government and I can assure this House that when I do get money for educational development I do not surrender it without a real struggle. I hope, however, that now the war is over, it will be possible to remedy all these defects before very long, and I am glad to say that the Government of India have approved in principle a comprehensive plan costing about Rs. 80 lacs for providing the Polytechnic with its essential requirements in regard to buildings, equipment and staff. Provision has been made in next year's budget for beginning this development and by the time it is completed I anticipate that the Polytechnic will be recognised as the Technological Department of Delhi University.

Now I must turn to what I believe to be the more immediate cause of dissatisfaction among the students and that is the non-recognition up to date for employment in Industry or in Government service of the All-India Diplomas and Certificates for which the Polytechnic provides courses. Courses on these lines were first started in Great Britain after the last war the object being to ensure that technical instruction was really serving the needs of industry by directly associating representatives of industry and of professional associations with the drawing up of courses, the recognition of institutions, the supervision of examinations and the award of Diplomas and Certificates. It took some years before the new qualifications were generally recognised but they are now highly regarded and are preferred in many quarters to University degrees awarded after similar periods of study. No one will, I think, deny the potential value of courses of this type to India if they can be successfully established. Before, however, such courses could even be started in this country a good deal of spadework was necessary as no machinery for this purpose was in existence. The first step was to set up an Association of Principals of Technical Institutions and the second was to create All-India Boards of Studies in the main branches of Technology. It is largely due to Mr. Wood's initiative and energy that

there are now in being not only an Association of Principals of Technical Institutions, to which I believe all the Heads of the principal technical institutions in this country belong, but also fully representative All-India Boards of Studies in such main branches of technology as engineering, textiles, applied chemistry, architecture and commerce. These Boards have drawn up all-India syllabuses in their respective subjects and have recognized a number of institutions as places for conducting the courses in connection therewith. I understand that in most cases the Boards have already applied to the principal industrial and professional bodies as well as to Departments of the Central and Provincial Governments for recognition of their Diplomas but except in a few instances replies have not yet been received. I am in communication with the Chairman of the Boards to see if I can help in any way to expedite recognition, and the other day I had what I regard as a satisfactory talk with the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission in this connection. He told me that if any body of standing represented to his Commission that the qualifications awarded by it were equivalent to those already accepted for eligibility for a post under Government, his Commission would be unlikely to refuse such an application. It is also reasonable to assume that recognition when and where granted will be retrospective. Here, however, I must try to make two points clear. The bodies responsible for securing recognition are the All-India Boards. For Government to intervene officially, particularly in the interest of one of their own institutions, would not only be contrary to the whole idea of the Diploma courses but would also be fatal to their success. The second point is that the primary object of these courses is to provide well trained recruits for Industry rather than Government service and that employers in this country as elsewhere will not be satisfied with paper qualifications however impressive but will want to be sure that the holders of these qualifications can do a job of work as well as or better than the employees that they have previously recruited.

Lastly, a word about the present position of the Polytechnic in relation to these All-India courses. It has been recognised for Engineering, Applied Chemistry and Commerce. The first batch of students have just taken their passing out examination in Engineering and Applied Chemistry and the results were only declared in December, they will not be eligible for their actual Diplomas until they have been a year at work. The Diploma students in Commerce have not yet completed their course. The Polytechnic was to have been inspected last week on behalf of the Architectural Board but owing to the strike the inspection had to be postponed. It has not yet applied for recognition for Textiles as it has not so far been possible to obtain the necessary machinery.

I have every sympathy with the legitimate anxieties of students on the threshold of their careers and shall, as I have said, do what I can to remove them but if the facts I have stated are correct, as I believe them to be, I cannot help feeling that this strike is premature and that it will do nothing to enhance the reputation of the Polytechnic in directions likely to be useful to the students themselves. I regret very much that they should have taken this drastic step without first seeking the advice and help either of the Honourable Member in charge of Education or myself. Neither of us can, I think, be fairly charged with any lack of sympathy with the younger generation.

#### INVIDIOUS TREATMENT TO INDIAN STUDENTS PROCEEDING ABROAD

**167. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Has the attention of the Education Secretary been drawn to the newspaper reports of invidious treatment meted out on board ship to the Indian students proceeding abroad? If so, what steps, if any have been taken to prevent a repetition of the same?

**Dr. John Sargent:** Yes, Sir, there has been only one incident so far as I am aware and I dealt with that in my reply to part (c) of Starred question No. 14, on 5th February, 1946. This occurred when some students refused to embark on a troopship, the 'Georgie', in October 1945, because they did not consider satisfactory the travel conditions on board. There was no invidious

treatment of Indian Students as the conditions were exactly the same for all male passengers under 35.

This incident was very fully investigated at the time and as the result of the steps then taken to explain to all future passengers the exact nature of troop-deck accommodation there have been no further incidents.

#### NON-OFFICIAL CHAIRMAN FOR MUNICIPALITIES AND DISTRICT BOARDS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

**168. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Health Secretary please state:

(a) whether he is aware of the extreme public dissatisfaction against the continuance of the official chairman in the Delhi and Ajmer Municipalities; and

(b) whether he proposes to consider the advisability of taking necessary steps in this session to provide for the election of a non-official Chairman in all the Municipalities and District Boards in the Centrally Administered Areas?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam:** (a) The Chairman of the Ajmer Municipal Committee is not an official. As regards Delhi the Government are aware that a section of the public is not in favour of continuance of the present arrangement.

(b) The Government will consider the matter.

#### CURTAILMENT OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN AJMER-MERWARA

**169. \*Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Is the Health Secretary aware that street lighting hours in Ajmer were reduced as a War measure, that there is no light in the streets almost throughout the night, causing considerable inconvenience to the public in the town, and that there is great resentment against this restriction?

(b) Are Government aware that in the town of Beawar also the supply of electricity to private consumers has been curtailed from 6 A.M. to 12 NOON?

(c) Do Government propose to instruct the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara to remove these restrictions now that the war is over?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam:** (a) and (b). Yes; the street lighting hours were curtailed in order to reduce as far as possible the consumption of fuel oil and wear and tear of machinery.

(c) The Chief Commissioner already has under examination the possibility of removing the restrictions.

#### REPORT OF INDIAN PHARMACOPOEIAL LIST COMMITTEE

**170. \*Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state whether Government have received the report of the Indian Pharmacopoeial List Committee? If so, when do they intend to adopt the Indian Pharmacopoeial List as official?

(b) Is it the intention of Government to wait for the publication of the new edition of the British Pharmacopoeia before taking any action on the Indian Pharmacopoeial List?

(c) Do Government know that many items included in the Indian Pharmacopoeial List might be recognised by the British Pharmacopoeia in their new edition and in that case, the Indian Pharmacopoeial List will have to be again revised, thus causing a delay of several months or years for adopting it as official?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam:** (a) The report of the Indian Pharmacopoeial List Committee has not yet been received by the Government. The Committee's report has been submitted by the Committee to the Drugs Technical Advisory Board and is at present being printed.

(b) and (c). The action to be taken on the report will be considered when it is received.

#### CENTRAL DRUGS CONTROL LABORATORY

**171. \*Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Health Secretary please state when Government intend to enforce the Drugs Rules, 1945, and the Drugs Act, 1940?

(b) What action do Government intend to take regarding the formation of the Central Drugs Control Laboratory which would be necessary for the enforcement of the Act?

(c) Are Government aware that the work of the Central Drugs Control Laboratory is of a highly technical nature and only people experienced and qualified in testing and analysis of drugs are the only people fit to be employed in the said laboratory? Do Government propose to see that people superannuated or people out of touch with scientific work are not put in charge of any sections in the laboratory?

(d) Is it a fact that some members of the staff of the Central Drugs Control Laboratory who had joined the Army are now joining the Laboratory again, though they have gone entirely out of touch with the testing and analysis of drugs?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) The Provincial Governments have been asked for their views on the date from which the Drugs Act and Rules should be enforced and a decision will be taken when their replies are received.

(b) The Central Drugs Laboratory will be constituted before the Drugs Act and Rules are brought into force. The functions of the Central Drugs Laboratory will be performed by the existing institution known as the Biochemical Standardisation Laboratory.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part only persons competent to discharge the duties required of them will be employed in the Laboratory.

(d) The Central Drugs Laboratory has not yet been constituted. The existing organisation is the Biochemical Standardisation Laboratory. One member of the staff of that Laboratory was called up for military service and on demobilisation he will revert to the Laboratory.

#### BRITISH AND NON-INDIAN PUBLIC UTILITY CONCERNS

172. **\*Mr. K. O. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of public utility concerns owned by British and other non-Indian interests in India, indicating the amount of the capital involved in such concerns, and the policy of Government in the matter of acquiring these concerns on behalf of the State or Municipal or other statutory bodies in India?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** The question will be answered by the Honourable Member in charge of the Planning and Development on the 18th February, 1946.

#### OPERATION OF SCHEME FOR TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS ABROAD

173. **\*Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a comprehensive statement regarding the operation of the scheme for sending technicians already employed in Industries abroad for further training or for enlarging their industrial or professional experience, announced last year, giving particulars specially as regards the number of technicians who have already proceeded to the different countries, the different courses they are going to take up, the processes of selection of the said technicians, and the consideration governing such selection?

(b) How many applicants, if any, are yet to be sent from among those who have already been selected, how many if any, more technicians are likely to be sent out likewise in the current year, and in what subjects are these technicians likely to be trained and in which countries?

(c) What will be the estimated cost to the Central Government involved in the training of these technicians, and what will be the cost, if any, to the Provincial Governments concerned?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) 152 candidates have yet to be sent amongst those already selected. Particulars of the training facilities required for each candidate have been sent to the authorities concerned. Arrangements are made for sending the candidates as soon as intimation is received that the training facilities required by him will be available. It is not possible at this stage to say how many more candidates over and above those already selected will be sent in the current year or the subjects in which they may be trained. This will depend on the availability of training facilities abroad.

(c) Under the scheme the training and other expenses of the candidates are borne by the respective employers *i.e.*, private industry, Central and Provincial Governments and the Indian States, as the case may be. The scheme also provides for financial assistance from the Central Government to candidates from private industry where the training is in a new industry or an industry whose development is considered desirable in the national interest and the employer is unable to bear the full cost.

The cost to the Central Government during 1946-47 in respect of candidates selected from amongst Central Government employees and a few cases from private industry where such assistance may be given is estimated to be Rs. 1,01,680.

The estimated cost to the Provincial Governments in respect of candidates selected from amongst Provincial Government employees during 1946-47 will be about Rs. 860,000.

#### STATEMENT

So far 163 candidates have been selected for training under the Higher Technical Training Scheme in the following trades :—

Trade	No. selected for training	Remarks	
Chemical Engineering . . . . .	54	Manufacture of Starch Products	8
		Manufacture of heavy chemicals	14
		Dehydration and fermentation	6
		Manufacture of soaps, oils and paints	8
		Chemical Technology . . . . .	6
		Manufacture of fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals . . . . .	5
		Manufacture of utility products . . . . .	5
		Sugar technology . . . . .	2
Cement Industry . . . . .	2		
Mechanical Engineering . . . . .	23	Manufacture of Agricultural implements . . . . .	1
		Manufacture of machine tools . . . . .	9
		Manufacture of utility goods and instruments . . . . .	2
		Manufacture of abrasive products	2
		Mechanical Engineering (general) . . . . .	9
Metallurgy . . . . .	10		
Radio Engineering . . . . .	1		
Textiles Industry . . . . .	19	Textile technology . . . . .	16
		Manufacture of textile machinery	2
		Manufacture of woollen yarns . . . . .	1
Plastics . . . . .	8		
Glass Industry . . . . .	4		
Plywood and furniture Industry . . . . .	2		
Ship-building . . . . .	4		
Marine Engineering . . . . .	2		
Film Industry . . . . .	1		
Methods of preservation of records	1		
Electrical Engineering . . . . .	15	Manufacture of electrical equipment and appliances . . . . .	11
		Generation, transmission and distribution of electrical energy	3
		Electrical Engineering (General)	1
Fuel Technology . . . . .	1		
Ceramics . . . . .	4		
Leather Industry . . . . .	3		
Industrial application of X-rays . . . . .	1		

Trade	No. selected for training	Remarks
Civil Engineering . . . . .	3	Sewrage and sewerage treatment . . . . . 2 Construction of dams' connected with Hydro-Electric schemes . . . . . 1
Geology . . . . .	3	
Jute Manufacture . . . . .	1	
Manufacture of Locomotives . . . . .	1	
Total . . . . .	163	

45 out of these are for training in the U. S. A., 2 in Australia and 116 in the U. K. Training facilities have so far been arranged only for 18 in the U. S. A. and 22 in the U. K. as indicated below:—

United Kingdom	Trade	No.
	Mechanical Engineering . . . . .	12
	Textile industry . . . . .	2
	Metallurgy . . . . .	2
	Ship-Building . . . . .	2
	Fuel technology . . . . .	1
	Geology . . . . .	1
	Industry application of X-rays . . . . .	1
	Steel manufacture . . . . .	1
U. S. A.	Chemical Engineering . . . . .	7
	Rubber industry . . . . .	1
	Electrical Engineering . . . . .	3
	Textile industry . . . . .	1
	Metallurgy . . . . .	3
	Mechanical Engineering . . . . .	1
	Plywood industry . . . . .	1
	Methods of preservation of records . . . . .	1

Three of the candidates for U.S.A. for whom training facilities had been arranged dropped out and out of the remaining 15, 2 have sailed and 13 are awaiting passages. In regard to the 22 candidates for whom training facilities have been arranged in the U.K., 9 have left and 13 are awaiting passages. No arrangements have yet been made for the candidates selected for training in Australia.

The candidates are selected by a Selection Committee set up for the purpose. The minimum qualifications are, a degree in Science or Engineering or an equivalent diploma and three years industrial experience. The main considerations governing the selections are the future needs of Government and private industry for post-war development and the theoretical qualifications and practical experience of the candidates.

#### OPERATION OF SCHEME FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF STUDENTS ABROAD

174. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Education Secretary be pleased to lay on the table of the House a comprehensive statement regarding the operation of the scheme for technical education of students abroad, dealt with in a press communique issued in January, 1945, giving particulars specially as regards the number of students who have already proceeded to the different countries, the different technical courses they are going to take up, the processes of selection of the said students, and the considerations governing such selections?

(b) How many applicants, if any, are yet to be sent from among those who have already been selected, how many if any, more students are likely to be sent out likewise in the current year, and in what subjects are these students likely to be trained and in which countries?

(c) What will be the estimated cost to the Central Government involved in the training of these students and what will be the cost, if any, to the Provincial Governments concerned?

**Dr. John Sargent:** (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Out of the students selected in 1945 by the Central and Provincial Governments for studies abroad, 299 students have yet to go. In addition to these 299, it is proposed to send another batch of about 600 students this year. The subjects for the study of which scholars are to be selected this year by the Central Government are given in the pamphlet "Information for students desiring to proceed overseas for Advanced Studies, 1946-47" copies of which are available in the Library of the House. The bulk of the students will be sent to educational institutions in the United Kingdom and the United States of America and a few probably to Canada, Australia and New Zealand also.

(c) The cost involved in 1946-47 on the scheme is expected not to exceed Rs. 55 Lakhs so far as the Central Government are concerned. The expenditure to be met by the Provincial Governments in respect of their students is not known yet.

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*Statement*

Particulars regarding the scheme for sending Indian Students abroad for advanced studies, the different technical courses they are to study, the process of selection of the scholars and the considerations governing such selections are contained in the Report of the Selection Board, Overseas Scholarships, 1945, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Up to the end of last month, 247 students had left for the United Kingdom and 159 for the United States of America. These figures are inclusive of the students sent on behalf of Provincial Governments.

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**RETURN OF BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS REMOVED FROM IMPERIAL LIBRARY,  
CALCUTTA**

**175. \*Mr. K. O. Neogy:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to refer to the answer to starred question No. 553 of the 28th February, 1945, and state whether the rare and valuable books and manuscripts belonging to the Imperial Library, which were removed from Calcutta as a precautionary measure during the war and deposited with the Aligarh Muslim University, have since been returned to the Library? If so, what is the total number of books and manuscripts that were thus removed, and in what condition are they at present? Has any of them been found to suffer from any damage or deterioration on any account since they were removed from the Library?

**Dr. John Sargent:** The books and manuscripts of the Imperial Library, Calcutta, which had been removed to the Aligarh Muslim University for safe custody in February, 1942, have since been brought back to Calcutta. The boxes containing the books have not been unpacked as necessary shelf space is not available in the building in which the Library is now housed. Orders for steel racks have been placed but the steel is not yet obtainable. It is not possible to say whether any of these books have actually suffered damage in storage until a report which has been called for from the Librarian is received but since they were packed in air-tight, metal lined cases it is hoped that they will be found in good condition.

**GRANT OF IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES IN AJMER-MERWARA**

**176. \*Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Is the Food Secretary aware that there has been a regular practice in the Control and Supplies Department, Ajmer-Merwara to grant import and export licences to such persons only, who will agree to pay huge amounts in the so-called Charity Funds irrespective of their antecedents in business? If so, do Government regard this practice just and fair?

(b) Will Government disclose as to how much amount has been collected from the public in this manner and how does it contemplate to utilise this amount?

(c) Will Government take the representatives of the public into confidence before finally deciding as to how and in what manner this amount is to be spent?

**Mr. B. E. Sen:** (a) No such practice exists.

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

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST STUDENTS RE QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

**30. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state the number of students against whom disciplinary action was taken in the Centrally Administered Areas in connection with the Quit India movement?

**Dr. John Sargent:** The information is being collected and will be sent to the Honourable Member.

### ACCOUNTS RE GORAKHPUR LABOUR IN COAL MINES

**31. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether all the expenditure incurred on account of the recruitment and employment of the Gorakhpur labour in coal mines has been regularly audited and has been found by audit to be entirely in order? Up to which date have such accounts been audited?

(b) What is the name and designation of the Officer in charge of the Labour Force and what is the name of his Secretary? What are the emoluments to which they are respectively entitled, and what is the extent of the financial authority of the Officer-in-charge?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) *First part.* Yes, and the accounts have been reported to be in order.

*Second part.* Up to the end of the financial year 1944-45.

(b) *First part.* Mr. H. J. Walsh, Deputy Director, Labour Supply (Coal). There is no Secretary attached to him.

*Second part.* His scale of pay is 1,925—50—2,075. He has been authorised to incur expenditure at an overall rate not exceeding Rs. 60 per labourer per month, to cover the pay of labourers, pay of clerical, inferior and medical staff, cost of rations, and expenditure on T. A. and contingencies. In all cases expenditure incurred must be in accordance with scales approved by Government.

### EXPENDITURE ON GORAKHPUR LABOUR IN COAL MINES

**32. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the amount so far spent on the Gorakhpur labour employed in coal mines;

(b) the amount realised so far from the owners of mines who employed the Gorakhpur labour;

(c) the number of members of the Gorakhpur labour force employed in (i) Railway-owned collieries, and (ii) collieries owned by public companies and individuals; and

(d) the names of those mines where the Gorakhpur labour has been employed?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) Rs. 1,91,05,886 up to the end of January 1946.

(b) Rs. 22,52,811 actually recovered upto the end of December 1945. Rs. 29,48,302 are still outstanding for the period up to end of December and estimated amount to be billed for January 1946 is Rs. 16 lakhs.

(c) Number employed in:

(i) Railway Collieries 7 per cent.;

(ii) Collieries owned by Public companies 88 per cent.;

(iii) Collieries owned by individuals 10 per cent. Total labour force as on 19th January 1946—17,891.

Greatest number employed in any one month—80,600.

(d) A statement is placed on the table.

*List of Mines**Surface*

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) Madhuband.                  | (31) Ekra Khas.               |
| (2) Diamond Tisra.              | (32) Ekra Khas No. 12 quarry. |
| (3) Model Jharia.               | (33) Mudidih.                 |
| (4) A. G. Tisra.                | (34) Tetulmari.               |
| (5) Lower Upper Jharia.         | (35) Tata's Sijua.            |
| (6) Indian Jharia.              | (36) Angarpathra.             |
| (7) Bagdigi Kujama.             | (37) Jharia Khas Angarpathra. |
| (8) K. P.'s Dobari.             | (38) Koiludih.                |
| (9) Bhalgora.                   | (39) Agardih.                 |
| (10) Ghanayadh.                 | (40) North Damuda.            |
| (11) Bagchi's Dobari.           | (41) Isabella.                |
| (12) Pandalberra.               | (42) Shampur.                 |
| (13) Khas Jharia Dobari.        | (43) Pure Laikdih.            |
| (14) South Tisra.               | (44) Sanctoria.               |
| (15) East Bararee.              | (45) Chapui Khas.             |
| (16) Pure Joyrampur.            | (46) Khas Jamchhari.          |
| (17) North Bararee.             | (47) Jote Dhemu.              |
| (18) G. P. C's. Jinagora.       | (48) Sirka.                   |
| (19) Basudev 'A' Plot Colliery. | (49) Religarah.               |
| (20) Pathardih Sudamdih.        | (50) Junkunda.                |
| (21) Pure Tasra.                | (51) Jambad.                  |
| (22) New Tasra.                 | (52) Dhansar.                 |
| (23) Central Bhowra.            | (53) Bright Kusunda.          |
| (24) Bhowra.                    | (54) North Bhuggatdih.        |
| (25) Mohulboni.                 | (55) Godhur.                  |
| (26) East Ekra.                 | (56) Pure Kustore.            |
| (27) Busserya.                  | (57) Alkusa Nayadee.          |
| (28) North Ekra.                | (58) Jairandih.               |
| (29) Kankanee.                  | (59) Swang.                   |
| (30) Sendra Bansjora.           | (60) Parbelia.                |

*Underground*

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| (1) Parbelia.                  | (11) Digwadih.       |
| (2) Sodepur.                   | (12) Jitpur.         |
| (3) Seetalpur.                 | (13) Pure Joyrampur. |
| (4) Banksimullah 11 & 12 pits. | (14) Bhatdee.        |
| (5) Banksimulla 7 & 8 pits.    | (15) Gaslitand.      |
| (6) Damra.                     | (16) Standard.       |
| (7) Adjai II Colliery.         | (17) Ekra Khas.      |
| (8) Sheebpur.                  | (18) Swang.          |
| (9) Chapui Khas.               | (19) Jairandih.      |
| (10) S. E. Baraboni.           | (20) Dhemu Main.     |
|                                | (21) Model Jharia.   |

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

## EJECTION OF LABOURERS LIVING IN FUEL DEPOTS IN GOLE MARKET

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Secretary, Health Department please state if it is a fact that the New Delhi Municipality has recently passed orders ejecting the labourers employed in the fuel depots in the Gole Market for carrying fuel loads to customers' houses?

(b) What are the grounds for such ejection?

(c) Is it a fact that these labourers were being housed for the past fifteen years on the premises of these fuel depots in sheds covered with zinc sheets?

(d) Is it a fact that the New Delhi Municipality did not raise any objection till now for the labourers living on the premises of these fuel depots?

(e) Is it a fact that the fuel depot owners have made representations to the Municipality to allow them to construct permanent structures for the labourers to dwell on the premises either at their own expense or at the expense of the Municipality?

(f) Is it a fact that the purchasers of fuel at these Gole Market depots who comprise mostly of Secretariat employees are put to great hardship and inconvenience in carrying fuel to their quarters for lack of labourers?

(g) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of instructing the New Delhi Municipality to withdraw the order ejecting the labourers? If not, why not?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** (a) and (b). It is a fact that the New Delhi Municipal Committee has removed certain unauthorised sheds, some covered with zinc sheeting and some with planking and cloth, which had been erected by the fuel depot owners and were occupied by labour employed at the depot and on carrying fuel loads.

(c) and (d). The sheds have been in existence for a number of years but were not removed before because a proposal to remove the depots to another site was under consideration.

(e) The fuel depot owners did make such representations recently.

(f) Inconvenience to purchasers was caused for some days owing to labourers absenting themselves from the depots but I understand that little difficulty is being experienced now.

(g) No. The Municipal Committee has decided to construct proper quarters for labour employed at the depots. Most of the labour employed on carrying fuel loads lives in Paharganj.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know how many labourers have been thrown out of their houses?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** I have not got the exact figures with me at present.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Does it run to some thousands?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** No, Sir.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know what arrangements have been made and how long it will take for the New Delhi Municipality to provide these labourers with quarters? May I know what temporary arrangements have been made for housing them?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** No temporary arrangements have been made. Labourers have been required to find accommodation elsewhere as in the case of labourers employed at the other fuel depots.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know if the Honourable Member or any officer in his Department has made any enquiries as to where they are being housed at present, or whether they are on the streets, living on house pials?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** They have to find accommodation elsewhere.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Surely it is the concern of the Government to know and to ascertain where these people are living . . . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, order, what is the question?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not the responsibility of the Government to see that these labourers who have been evicted are also provided with temporary habitation, especially in this winter season?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** Sir, as far as my information goes, they have had no difficulty in finding accommodation.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know, if the New Delhi Municipality has been seriously thinking of providing quarters or building quarters for these labourers, what was the hurry in driving these people away from their sheds so early before actually quarters have been provided?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** I understand that quarters are to be built on the sites on which temporary structures were located before.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** How long does he expect to finish these new quarters?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** It will take some months.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In the meanwhile, what are these labourers expected to do? Merely shift for themselves?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam:** Yes, they are now living in Paharganj.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are the Government satisfied with that position.

**Mr. President:** Order, order. Next question.

#### STUDENTS' STRIKE IN DELHI POLYTECHNIC

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state as to the attitude of the Government in regard to the strike that is going on for a pretty long time in the Polytechnic Institute, Delhi?

**Dr. John Sargent:** While I regret as much as anyone the events which have led to the present strike at the Delhi Polytechnic, I welcome this opportunity of making a statement which will, I hope, help to clear the air in regard to this unfortunate incident and lead to a prompt settlement of the dispute. Since the issues involved are somewhat complicated and since I fear that an incomplete or indefinite statement by me at this stage would do more harm than good I must ask, Sir, for your indulgence and that of this House if I reply to this question at greater length than is usually permitted. I will, however, omit what seem to me to be minor issues and confine myself to what appear to be the main causes of complaint. These fall under two heads (i) that since their inception the senior Departments of the Polytechnic have never been properly staffed, housed, or equipped and (ii) that the National Diplomas and Certificates for several of which the Polytechnic offers courses have not yet been recognised generally for the purpose of employment either in Industry or in Government Service.

With regard to the former I do not think that anyone will charge me with trying to make out that our educational arrangements in this country are better than they actually are and I shall certainly not attempt to do so in the case of the Delhi Polytechnic. In order, however, to make clear what were the ideas which led to the establishment of this institution and how far they have been realised and how far they have not, I am afraid I must inflict on this House a little past history. When I came out to India in 1938, I was surprised to find that in Delhi, the Capital City and a large industrial Centre, there was no senior technical institution of any kind. It seemed to me therefore an obvious place in which to try out under Indian conditions recent experiments which had proved their value in my own country. One of these was a Technical High School, the aim of which is to provide, under normal high school conditions, a type of all round but practical education which will encourage young people of ability to seek employment in Industry. I do not think anyone has challenged the success of this experiment and as the Technical High School is not involved in the strike, I will not say any more about it. Nor need I refer to the important part which the Polytechnic has played in training war technicians since this was not one of the objects for which it was founded. Whether it was wise to proceed with the establishment of the senior departments in view of war-time difficulties in regard to staff, buildings and equipment, the nature, if not the extent, of which could be foreseen, is more open to doubt. Here I must take full responsibility for having advised Government to proceed. In this I was mainly influenced by the possibility of securing a competent Head for this new Institution and I realised that in view of its experimental nature, it was unlikely that we should be able to find in India anyone with the requisite experience. An attempt to do so through the Federal Public Service Commission resulted in failure. I accordingly consulted Dr. Abbott, formerly Chief Technical Inspector of the Board of Education in Great Britain, who visited India in 1936-37 at the invitation of the Central Government to advise in regard to developments in technical education and whose report is pretty well known in educational circles. When after making enquiries he informed me that owing to a combination of circumstances, into which I need not enter, a gentleman, who enjoyed a high reputation as the Principal of a Technical College in Great Britain, would be prepared to accept our post on terms which would not normally have attracted a man of his standing, I felt that the opportunity was too good to be missed.

But although we were fortunate in securing a Principal, we were anything but fortunate in regard to the assistant staff. Owing to the great demand during

the war for people with good technical qualifications we failed to get suitable men to fill the key posts of the Polytechnic although we made repeated attempts through the Federal Public Service Commission and after each failure increased the salaries offered. We only succeeded after a considerable interval in filling the Headships of the engineering, applied chemistry and architecture departments a few months ago, and it is fair to assume that the gentlemen in question had not had time to get hold of their Departments before this trouble started. In addition to this, owing to the higher salaries offered in Industry and Departments directly connected with war production, it has been difficult to retain the services of competent teachers on the staff with the result that there have been frequent changes which have been detrimental to the efficiency of the Institution. These staffing difficulties, regrettable as they have been, are not, I submit evidence of negligence on the part of the authorities responsible for the Polytechnic. The dearth of higher grade technologists at the present time is generally admitted. Similarly with regard to buildings and equipment we have had the money but we have not been able to secure the necessary priorities in respect of many of the orders we have placed. Here again I submit there has been no negligence on the part of Government and I can assure this House that when I do get money for educational development I do not surrender it without a real struggle. I hope, however, that now the war is over, it will be possible to remedy all these defects before very long, and I am glad to say that the Government of India have approved in principle a comprehensive plan costing about Rs. 80 lacs for providing the Polytechnic with its essential requirements in regard to buildings, equipment and staff. Provision has been made in next year's budget for beginning this development and by the time it is completed I anticipate that the Polytechnic will be recognised as the Technological Department of Delhi University.

Now I must turn to what I believe to be the more immediate cause of dissatisfaction among the students and that is the non-recognition up to date for employment in Industry or in Government service of the All-India Diplomas and Certificates for which the Polytechnic provides courses. Courses on these lines were first started in Great Britain after the last war, the object being to ensure that technical instruction was really serving the needs of industry by directly associating representatives of Industry and of professional associations with the drawing up of courses, the recognition of institutions, the supervision of examinations and the award of Diplomas and Certificates. It took some years before the new qualifications were generally recognised but they are now highly regarded and are preferred in many quarters to University degrees awarded after similar periods of study. No one will, I think, deny the potential value of courses of this type to India if they can be successfully established. Before, however, such courses could even be started in this country a good deal of spade work was necessary as no machinery for this purpose was in existence. The first step was to set up an Association of Principals of Technical Institutions and the second was to create All-India Boards of Studies in the main branches of Technology. It is largely due to Mr. Wood's initiative and energy that there are now in being not only an Association of Principals of Technical Institutions, to which I believe all the Heads of the principal technical institutions in this country belong, but also fully representative All-India Boards of Studies in such main branches of technology as engineering, textiles, applied chemistry, architecture and commerce. These Boards have drawn up all-India syllabuses in their respective subjects and have recognised a number of institutions as places for conducting the courses in connection therewith. I understand that in most cases the Boards have already applied to the principal industrial and professional bodies as well as to Departments of the Central and Provincial Governments for recognition of their Diplomas but except in a few instances replies have not yet been received. I am in communication with the Chairman of the Boards to see if I can help in any way to expedite recognition, and the other day I had what I regard as a satisfactory talk with the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission in this connection. He told me that provided the authorised bodies concerned recognise the diploma as equivalent to a recognised Engineering degree, the Commission

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will also accept it. It is also reasonable to assume that recognition when and where granted will be retrospective. Here, however, I must try to make two points clear. The bodies responsible for securing recognition are the All-India Boards. For Government to intervene officially, particularly in the interest of one of their own institutions, would not only be contrary to the whole idea of the Diploma courses but would also be fatal to their success. The second point is that the primary object of these courses is to provide well trained recruits for Industry rather than Government service and that employers in this country as elsewhere will not be satisfied with paper qualifications however impressive but will want to be sure that the holders of these qualifications can do a job of work as well as or better than the employees that they have previously recruited. I hope, however, that the All-India Council for Technical Education which Government have set up to advise them and Provincial Governments in regard to developments in higher technical education may be able to help. The question of the relation of the Course to the All-India Boards of Studies has been placed on the agenda for the first meeting to be held next month.

Lastly, a word about the present position of the Polytechnic in relation to these All-India courses. It has been recognised for Engineering, Applied Chemistry and Commerce. The first batch of students have just taken their passing out examination in Engineering and Applied Chemistry and the results were only declared in December; they will not be eligible for their actual Diplomas until they have been a year at work. The Diploma students in Commerce have not yet completed their course. The Polytechnic was to have been inspected last week on behalf of the Architectural Board but owing to the strike the inspection had to be postponed. It has not yet applied for recognition for Textiles as it has not so far been possible to obtain the necessary machinery.

I have every sympathy with the legitimate anxieties of students of the threshold of their careers and shall, as I have said, do what I can to remove them but if the facts I have stated are correct, as I believe them to be, I cannot help feeling that this strike is premature and that it will do nothing to enhance the reputation of the Polytechnic in directions likely to be useful to the students themselves. I regret very much that they should have taken this drastic step without first seeking the advice and help either of the Honourable Member in charge of Education or myself. Neither of us can, I think, be fairly charged with any lack of sympathy with the younger generation.

**Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee:** In view of the fact that the Honourable Member is going to put through this vast programme for the expansion of the Polytechnic at the cost of some lakhs of rupees, is he prepared to consider the stoppage of all private and outside work on the part of the Principal and other members of the staff and thereby ensure that they will give their whole attention to the Polytechnic?

**Dr. John Sargent:** The answer to that is 'no'. It has long been the practice in Western countries that in order to ensure that they are up to date in the practice of their art or craft, technical teachers should be encouraged, within reasonable limits, to practise their art or craft under commercial conditions. It is of course subject to the limitation that the teacher concerned must do it in a way that does not prevent him from discharging efficiently his duties in the institution where he is employed. I realize from my own experience in England that there are difficulties, but I still think that the principle is an extremely sound one and I shall certainly continue to advocate it in suitable cases. At the same time I shall certainly do what I can to see to the best of my ability that the understanding on which the permission is given is faithfully observed.

**Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee:** In view of that answer, will the Honourable Member give an assurance that he will prescribe exact limits within which such private work can be conducted? Is the Honourable Member also prepared to give some assurance that the same principle that applies to other Government servants—wholtime Government servants—that they surrender a portion of their outside earnings to Government, be applied in the case of officials in this Polytechnic?

**Dr. John Sargent:** That I am prepared to consider. The permission which was given to the first Principal, which I have no doubt the Honourable Member has in mind, was very specially considered by Government and was given after very careful consideration as a special case. Any future cases, of course, will have to be decided on their merits, but since the implication of this question may be that the late Principal has abused the privilege, I should like to state very emphatically that as a person fundamentally interested in the future of this institution, I have been in very close touch with what has been going on, and I am satisfied that the permission given has not been abused and that it has been to the advantage of the Institution.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** May I make a short statement since the reply is in the form of a statement? I entirely sympathize with my Honourable friend when he says that on account of war conditions he could not get the staff, he could not get the equipment, he could not get the building material, and so on. I was in the same boat; we started Medical and Engineering Colleges at the same time as the Polytechnic, and we had the same difficulty—that is correct. But what probably was not correct, as has been pointed out by Col. Chatterjee, is . . . . .

**Mr. President:** I would like to invite the attention of the Honourable Members to the fact that we are not going to have a debate on this question. The principal question is already before the House, and we, by common agreement, accepted this position of having a Short Notice question, with a view to enable the Honourable Member in charge of the Polytechnic to make a statement on the subject. Of course questions will be permitted, but the chief objective is the position with reference to the strike which is going on at present. Discussion of the whole subject and understanding the present situation are not the subject matter of the debate just at present. A few questions may be asked, but the Honourable Members should not consider this as an opportunity of discussing the Polytechnic. I would like to draw the attention of all the Honourable Members to this, otherwise we shall be discussing this question for a couple of hours, or even more.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** May I point out, at this stage, the points with regard to which the information is required? I agree that some of the things were right, but may I . . . . .

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member may put any question he likes with reference to the strike.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** When they started the Polytechnic, they ought to have consulted the employers at the very outset with regard to what kind of curriculum should be prescribed, what kind of instruction will be needed, and so on and the employers would have come forward immediately, and would have really given the necessary help and support. But, as it is, these students were put into great difficulty, because they find that their future position is entirely in the dark . . . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, order. I am sorry I have to interrupt the Honourable Member. What is his question?

**Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan:** He prefaces his remarks by saying 'is it a fact', 'is it so', or 'is it not so'.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** The Honourable Member did not reply a question; he made a statement. Anyway, I would like to put my question in this form: What steps did the Honourable Member or the Government of India take in devising their courses in a manner that the students may find employment immediately. My second question is . . . . .

**Mr. President:** Let the questions be one by one.

**Dr. John Sargent:** With regard to the local question, we did consult a large number of gentlemen interested in industry and commerce in the locality; both I did so and the Principal did so. With regard to the wider issue of the recognition of diploma, as I have already pointed out in my statement, these are drawn

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up by the All-India Boards and it is for them to obtain recognition on all-India basis. That will naturally take time. We shall do our very best to expedite that, but it must be done by these Boards on all-India basis.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May we know how far the present curriculum or the standard of education is below the mark?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I do not think it is below the mark; I am satisfied that it is up to the mark. The problem is to get employers—because the Polytechnic aims primarily at serving employers in industrial concerns rather than Government service—the problem is to get those people to recognize the diploma courses or in particular those of the Polytechnic, which in my opinion are quite as good as a Degree Course because the period of study, the content of the courses and the standards of admission are similar. The fact that they have not yet done so can be appreciated when I say that it took a great deal of time in my own country—it took years—before National Diplomas were recognized. I think the non-recognition is not due to any failure to observe a reasonably high standard in regard to these courses.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May we know what then is all this cry due to? Students are crying outside that they have not been given diplomas and therefore they are ineligible to get any employment outside.

**Dr. John Sargent:** I do not think that is so. The students who have passed the examination when they have completed one year's practical work will get their diploma. Their complaint is that these diplomas have not so far been recognized generally as equivalent to Degrees for the purpose of employment.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** How long will it take the Honourable Member to induce the All-India Board to come and make a visit and recognize this diploma?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I should not like to forecast how long. I can only say that I will do my best. But as I have pointed out it did take sometime in my own country before these qualifications were generally accepted. Some people have already accepted them, others are being approached.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Have not these students been induced to come out here and join this institution on the understanding that they would be given diplomas?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I have no idea that any student has been induced. These courses are being already offered in a number of institutions. Bombay students may have heard that the Polytechnic is better than any other institution, but we have not done any propaganda.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** In view of the fact that the present Principal, Mr. Wood, is most unpopular with the students, and has neglected his duties, will the Honourable Member give an assurance here and now that he will not be recalled from leave, and he will be replaced by a better man, preferably an Indian?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I will not give that assurance because I do not agree with the Honourable Member's statement.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it not a fact that the present Principal, Mr. Wood, gave it in writing to the students that their diplomas would be recognized as soon as they pass their examinations?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I am not aware of that. An assurance was given to the students that in view of the syllabus, the condition of admission, and the length of the course, it was hoped that these diplomas would be regarded—and we still hope so—as equivalent to an ordinary University Course, and that the Advanced Diploma, which nobody has yet taken, will be considered equivalent to an Honours Degree.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I entirely agree with the long term policy which the Honourable Member has outlined. But what is he going to do today; it is all right about tomorrow, but what about today?

**Dr. John Sargent:** That I thought I explained. It will not in my opinion contribute to the success of the scheme if Government should intervene in place of the all-India bodies which were set up to be autonomous and independent of Government. I have already indicated that I am in communication with the Chairmen of these Boards with regard to expediting recognition. I have already consulted the Chairman of the Federal Public Services Commission about recognition for Government services and the question is also being taken up by the All India Boards.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is it or is it not a fact that the entire statement of the Honourable Member proves to this House that in the opinion of his Government these diplomas are equivalent to the degrees to which he has been making reference? Why is this fact not recognised by the Federal Public Services Commission? At any rate the Federal Public Services Commission is not autonomous but a part of this Government.

**Dr. John Sargent:** The answer to that is that the opinion that I expressed is the opinion of the Education Department. Application for recognition has now been submitted by the All-India Boards to the Public Services Commission and will be considered, I might say, in the light of my personal discussion with the Chairman of the Body.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** My question is simple and straightforward. The opinion of the Government has been expressed by the Honourable Member, namely, that these diplomas of Engineering degrees are equivalent. Why isn't this fact recognised by the Government institutions themselves, leave aside the question of all-India autonomous bodies like the Boards of Examiners, etc. I am not concerned with them. What about the Federal Public Services Commission? Why do they not recognise this fact?

(No answer.)

**Mr. President:** Is the question clear to the Honourable Member?

**Dr. John Sargent:** Yes, but I do not think I can add anything to what I have said.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Isn't it a fact that these examinations were not held for certain classes which had completed their studies in 1945? There were no arrangements for holding examinations in architecture.

**Dr. John Sargent:** No arrangements have been made for holding examinations in architecture for the All-India Diploma in Architecture. For some reason of which I am not aware the Polytechnic has not yet been inspected by the All-India Board. The inspection should have been made last October. It was postponed because certain of the inspectors could not come and it was arranged to be held last week or this week. For obvious reasons it again had to be postponed, but the Polytechnic is holding its own examinations in regard to these matters.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I am sorry to have to remind you that the answer to my last question has not yet been given. I want to know definitely and positively why the Federal Public Services Commission does not recognise the opinion which the Honourable Member has expressed in this House. That is the point.

**Dr. John Sargent:** May I say in regard to that—I am afraid my powers of explanation have not been very good—that the Federal Public Services Commission, like other Departments of Government, will consider recommendations for the recognition of these diplomas when they are submitted by the All-India Boards. I have done my best by personal intervention with the Chairman to expedite consideration of this, and I think that in view of the assurance he gave and which I gave to this House recognition will be soon granted.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Once again, I like to point out to the Honourable Member that this House is not concerned with the All-India Bodies. They may be autonomous bodies. They may be anything that he may care to describe them. We are concerned with the public institutions, with the Government-aided institutions and we want to know why this Federal Public Services Commission, which is a Government institution does not recognise the opinion which is expressed here on behalf of the Government in this House. That is the main point. Why should there be any "ifs" and "buts."

**Mr. President:** I think the reply indicates that unless there is a recommendation from all these bodies, they are not going to proceed with the further consideration.

**Seth Govind Das:** Isn't it a fact that in the department of art and architecture, though the students have finished their course in November 1945, the examinations are not being held?

**Dr. John Sargent:** I have already replied on the question of architecture. They are awaiting recognition. In regard to the question of art, the question of constituting an All-India Board for Arts Studies was taken up by the Association of Principals of Technical Institutions and representatives of Arts Colleges. Unfortunately the negotiations fell through and a course in Art studies is not offered by the Polytechnic.

(At this stage Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee rose in his seat.)

**Mr. President:** I am afraid I cannot allow any more questions. It has been sufficiently discussed. We need not take more time.

#### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

##### CORRIDOR TO THE NIZAM OF HYDERABAD

**Mr. President:** I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Prof. N. G. Ranga who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely,

"The failure of the Government of India to inform the Secretary of State for India not to entertain any proposals for the grant of a corridor to His Exalted Highness, the Nizam of Hyderabad, through the British territory in the Madras Presidency towards the East Coast, namely, from Machilipatam to Coconada, in spite of the strong public opinion prevailing in British India against the cession of any portion of British territory to any Indian State."

I believe the Honourable Member has tabled a question on this point?

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan** (North-West Frontier Province: General): On a point of order. I tabled an adjournment motion before Mr. Ranga on Friday and it was not allowed then because it was pointed out that I had not given enough notice.

**Mr. President:** Which notice?

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:** Famine in clothing.

**Mr. President:** That has been ruled out that day. This has been received by me before 11 o'clock. So the point does not survive.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena** (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): If I give a notice of adjournment just now it will not be taken up before 11 o'clock to-morrow.

**Mr. President:** All that I can say is that the matter has to be urgent. That is one of the chief reasons for which the ordinary course of the business of the House can be adjourned. It would be for the Honourable Member to give notice as soon as he comes to know about the matter. I can well imagine circumstances in which the Honourable Member may not come to know about a certain thing before 11 o'clock. In that case he may give notice even after 11 o'clock and that will be taken up the next day. I am not ruling that any notice so given will be accepted as the proper notice for the next day. The point is that the Honourable Member should be alert and

he should give notice as soon as he comes to know a certain urgent matter in respect of which he wants the adjournment of the House. If the Honourable Member says he did not know it before 11 o'clock, I am prepared to accept his word and treat it in time for the next day. That is how I think the situation stands.

I now want to know from the Honourable Member whether he has tabled a question about this matter.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I gave notice a long time ago but I have not yet had any advance information. It is a very urgent matter. That is why I thought I would give notice now.

**Mr. President:** I must be satisfied about the urgency of the matter.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): At the time when my Honourable friend put the question it was quite nebulous. We have now more indications that it is gathering momentum. It is a very serious matter.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall** (Leader of the House): In the first place I should say that Legislative Rule 12 read with 23(d) shows that this is a matter which requires the consent of the Governor-General.

**Mr. President:** Is the Honourable Member referring to the paragraph in the manual or the rule?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Indian Legislative Rules. But apart from that the Honourable Member gave notice of a question which I think has been admitted for the 20th of this month and it is on precisely the same subject. He gave notice of that on the 14th of last month. In view of the ruling which you have just given, the Honourable Member should have given notice of the adjournment motion at that time. It was at that time that it came to his notice and he should have given notice of the adjournment motion immediately. Nothing has happened since then to make it more urgent and therefore according to the ruling which you have given only two minutes ago, I submit the motion should be ruled out.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, since I gave notice of that question I came to know from some people in Hyderabad as also in Masulipatam and other places that the British Government has come to know of this particular request of the Nizam of Hyderabad and that the Secretary of State is seized of this particular matter. It is therefore feared that decision may be reached by the India Office before this country has a chance of going into these matters in the Constituent Assembly.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Sir, just one word. With reference to rule 23, which the Honourable the Leader of the House cited, I felt that he himself. . . .

**Mr. President:** Without prejudice to the interpretation of the rules,—that may be left out for the time being,—I have to be satisfied now on the question of urgency.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Sir, we heard some vague reports about this matter sometime ago which necessitated my friend Mr. Ranga putting down a question some 10 or 15 days ago. But later on, on the 7th of this month an All-India Andhra Anti-Cession Day was celebrated. Reports of that came to us the next day. The following two days were holidays and on the 11th, that is today, my friend has given notice of this motion. All over the Andhra Desa and elsewhere also a day was celebrated protesting against the cession by the Government of India of large chunks of British territory, to be handed over to H. E. H. the Nizam. This is a very serious matter. My fear is that I may soon become the subject of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Sir, I would still submit that the information which appeared in the press was known to him on the 14th of

[Sir Edward Benthall]

last month, when he submitted his question on precisely the same subject. I submit therefore that the Honourable Member should certainly have tabled his adjournment motion then.

(Interruption.)

**Mr. President:** No further argument is necessary. I am not satisfied about the urgency of the motion and therefore I am not inclined to give my consent to it.

RESOLUTION RE RELEASE OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY MEN AND  
POLITICAL PRISONERS—*contd.*

**Mr. President:** Further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Pandit Govind Malaviya on Monday, the 4th February, 1946:

"In view of the universal expression of public opinion throughout the country in the matter, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to give up the trials of the Officers of the Indian National Army and to release immediately all men and officers of the Indian National Army as well as all other political prisoners under detention or imprisonment."

There have been some amendments to this, some of which have been moved and I find that there are some further amendments which have been tabled by Honourable Members subsequently. There is one by the Honourable Member, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and another by the Honourable Member, Mr. N. V. Gadgil. Will the Honourable Members concerned move their amendments also at this stage, so that I may, thereafter, call upon Mr. Mason to continue his speech.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava** (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, In view of the fact that Mr. Gadgil has given notice of another amendment, incorporating mine I do not propose to move my amendment.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir I move:

"That after the words 'Indian National Army' and before the words 'as well as' the following be inserted:—

'whether under-trial or undergoing sentences.'"

**Mr. President:** Amendment moved:

"That after the words 'Indian National Army' and before the words 'as well as' the following be inserted:—

'whether under-trial or undergoing sentences.'"

**Mr. P. Mason** (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, this question of the Indian National Army is one which has roused throughout the country very deep emotion and has given Government cause for very anxious consideration: and, Sir, I hope that throughout what I have to say I shall fully recognise that there are two very different points of view on this question and that although I shall do my best to speak as clearly and as plainly as I can on the view we take on this side of the House, I hope I shall say nothing to hurt anyone's feelings and if I by any chance do so, I apologise in advance because it is not my intention.

Sir, I should like, before dealing with the motions that are actually before us, to run through the policy which Government have framed and to explain to the House the object which Government had before them throughout in framing this policy and the background against which they conceived it. I do not think, Sir, that anyone will differ from us as to the object. You may say—and indeed many people have said—that we have not taken the best means to achieve our object but with the object itself I think every one will agree. The object, Sir, is to maintain the integrity and the reliability of the Indian Army. By that I mean, Sir, that in the future, as it has been in the past, the Indian Army shall be a sharp sword obedient to the hand of the wielder, whoever he may be. I said "whoever he may be" and that brings me on to the background of which I spoke.

The background against which we see this object has, from the beginning, been the hope that in the not distant future there will be a transfer of power in the Centre and that power will be handed over to an autonomous government. It was against that background that we conceived the object and, secondly, we have taken into consideration that wave of emotion and feeling throughout the country, of which I just spoke. Up to that point I think probably my friends on the other side of the House will, on the whole, agree with me. But it is here that perhaps I shall differ from them. I would try to state clearly the problem as it stood to us and as it still stands.

In 1942 there occurred a disaster, a defeat, which I think, is without precedent in the history of the British Commonwealth. Great armies surrendered to the Japanese in Malaya, armies which were British, Australian and Indian, and among those armies, for no fault of their own, were included 65,000 officers and soldiers of the Indian army. Now, Sir, the problem with which we were faced was that of those 65,000, some 45,000 remained true to their allegiance and the oath which they had sworn and refused to fight against their former friends and comrades in arms. Some 20,000, whatever their motives—and I will come to that presently—, whatever their motives might be, decided that they, on the other hand, would change sides and take up arms against the Allies in whose cause they had undertaken to fight. I spoke of the oath of allegiance. I want to emphasise this point very much indeed, because it is a point which has been neglected entirely, I think, in the press and on the platform and I think it is a point of great importance to the future of India. The oath which every soldier swears—he takes it in his mother tongue and it differs slightly according to his religion but it is substantially the same—is this:

"I swear by Almighty God (or I solemnly affirm in the presence of Almighty God) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty the King, Emperor of India and that I will go wherever I may be ordered on land, sea, or air and that I will obey the commands of my officers even to the peril of my life."

These are the words—very simple, but I think very moving words, and not lightly to be set aside. They are of the greatest importance to a soldier, and I think that we who are civilians may perhaps sometimes forget that great importance. Putting the thing on the lowest moral plane—there are higher planes, but I intentionally put it on the lowest—it means to a soldier that he can rely, if that oath is kept, on the fidelity and loyalty of his companions, and that means that when he goes into battle he has a good chance of winning his battle and some chance of getting out alive. But if he cannot rely on the loyalty or fidelity of his companions, he stands a pretty poor chance of winning his battle and perhaps not much of getting away with his life. That is, as I say, putting it on the low plane; but I would ask my honourable friends on the other side of the House to consider this question of the oath very carefully. I would ask them seriously and carefully to look back into Indian history for the last two hundred years and to think for themselves how many battles which were lost might have been won by the losing side, had that side been really able to rely without question on the fidelity and loyalty of their comrades in arms.

The officer does not take this oath, it is an oath taken by the soldier. The officer is chosen to lead the men who have taken that oath and he is trusted. He holds a commission which contains the words "To my trusty and well-beloved so & so." So that I think the principle applies to all, officers and soldiers alike.

Here I should like to explain why I have made a difference—I made a difference the other day between these men of the Indian army who went over to the enemy and the so-called Burman National Army. The Burmese were civilians: they had taken no oath of fidelity or loyalty and also they went over and fought against the Japanese on the side of the Allies towards the end of the campaign. In all I have to say,—I am not talking about the civilians who joined the I. N. A.—I am talking about the men of the Indian Army because that is the problem which is important to you for the future.

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The same thing applies to the women. I have seen a number of questions addressed to me about the treatment to be given to the women: they were civilians and as far as I am concerned, they are not my affair.

Now, I stress this point about the oath, because I think it is immensely important and it means that from a purely legal point of view, which I would not wish to take, all those 20,000 men before the law were equally guilty. But nobody for a moment took up that point of view because of the circumstances of the case. The first important circumstance was that out of these 20,000 a pretty considerable number were able to prove quite conclusively that they went over to the I.N.A., either with the object of sabotaging the movement or with the object of getting out and coming over as soon as they could to the allied lines and rejoining their former friends. Towards such men there could obviously be only one policy and they have been given the opportunity of rejoining, or rather remaining in, the Indian Army if they wish. Secondly, there were many others who went over, not because they wished actively or consciously to help the enemy but largely, I think, because they did not realise the full implications and because of the circumstances in which they found themselves. They had seen a disaster which as I have said was entirely without precedent: they had seen all the world they knew crumble about their ears; and all the news they could get was Japanese news. At that time the news was bad enough in all conscience. I think probably there have been no worse weeks in our history than those in April 1942, and these men had only the news that the Japanese gave them. According to the Japanese, the whole of Australia and most of India were in Japanese hands; and some of them must have thought that the power to whom they had given their allegiance had ended and that therefore they were at liberty to make a new bond. I cannot excuse such conduct, but one can at least understand it. I know of one case into which I looked personally, where some 200 men of a regiment which had suffered very heavily in the retreat, who had lost most of their British officers, were digging latrines for the Japanese, when they were approached by an Indian officer, not of their own regiment, but who had been posted to them three days before the surrender: he came to them and told them—reading between the lines of his own statement I have little doubt that the question he put to them was—“Would you rather be ancillary troops of the Japanese, digging trenches and latrines for the Japanese, or would you rather be part of an Indian army and infantry?” Well, the whole lot of them went over, two hundred of them, headed by their Subedar Major. I know that Subedar Major and I am quite convinced that he had no picture whatever of the future or of politics—he is an illiterate man—and I do not think any one could seriously wish to punish men such as that. At any rate we came to the conclusion right at the beginning that all these men who appeared to have been misled should be treated with clemency and indeed with generosity. They were given their pay from the date they were captured: they were given leave with pay and they were discharged; that is to say, they were not dismissed which conveys a stigma.

Here I had better deal with one point which is frequently raised and which is mentioned as one of the circumstances to which I have referred. It has often been said that these men had been deserted by the British. That is the phrase that is rather loosely used; but when it has a precise meaning attached to it, it means one of three things, as far as I can see: it either means that British battalions retreated while Indian battalions were left fighting. I am unable to find any truth whatever in such an allegation as that; and I have been unable to find any one who could make the allegation in a form which will bear looking into. The second meaning is that British troops were evacuated in ships from Singapore while Indians were not. Now, Sir, I have not any precise figures of those who exactly got away but the numbers were pretty small. What I have got is a definite statement by the General

commanding one of the Indian divisions on this subject. He recollects exactly the orders that he received and the orders he gave. He was told  
1 P.M. that there were so many berths in a ship going away and so many men to go. For his division the figures were extremely small—60 or 70 men. Splitting up 60 or 70 men between his units worked out to 6 or 7 men in each of his nine infantry battalions. The officer commanding the battalion was told to see that those 6 or 7 men were spread out evenly between the different ranks. That is to say, there should be one or two officers, one or two N. C. Os. and three or four privates. He saw those 60 or 70 men told off to go and he saw that detachment march away, but he could not say that they were actually evacuated.

Now, the third meaning is the famous story about Lt.-Col. Hunt at Farrer Park. It is alleged that he called the Indian prisoners of war to attention and told them 'From now you belong to the Japanese' What he actually said was 'You are now prisoners of war and you must obey Japanese orders'. I do not think there was really much room for mistake and it is pretty clear that 45 thousand men did not misunderstand him but knew perfectly well what he meant. I am inclined to think that the 20,000 who now say that they misunderstood him did not think of that till later. I do not mean to say that they are deliberately making up a story about this. I think that later on when they decided with others to go over this incident occurred to their minds and they reinterpreted it. My reason for thinking that lies in the words of Captain Shah Nawaz. In his defence he gave the interpretation which I just gave about Col. Hunt's words. In the same speech a few minutes later he says: I did not believe in and I actively opposed the formation of the I.N.A. until May 1942. If he thought they had been handed over to the Japanese and placed in the same relation to the Japanese as they had to their former commanders in the Indian Army, why did he oppose the formation of the I.N.A. until May 1942? And why does he maintain now that this was not a Japanese army but an Indian army independent of the Japanese?

Now, I come to the question of those who not merely embraced the cause of the enemy but embraced it with enthusiasm and did everything they could to help them. This is the most difficult question to solve and has caused us the most anxious consideration. On the question of motives, my own opinion after reading a number of statements is that these men fall into two categories. I will concede to my friends that there were undoubtedly some who definitely believed that they were striking a blow for the freedom of India. How they thought they were doing this I am not quite able to understand because they must have seen the puppet Governments in Malaya and in Burma and they must have seen that there was not much freedom there and I do not quite see how any one can really believe that a people like the Japanese who do not believe in freedom for themselves will be likely to give it to any one else. Still I believe that some of them did so in a rather vague way and I can see that they were acting according to their lights; but there were many more in my opinion who were opportunists, who went over because they thought they would get better food and better treatment, and having gone over they thought they must do all they could for the cause they had now embraced. However, the presence among their ranks of those idealists is an argument against severity and reinforces the claims of mercy, because it is repugnant to any one to punish a man for something which he believes he has done according to his lights and in what he believes to be a just cause. But the overwhelming consideration which weighed with us in considering these cases was the background of which I have spoken. We were hoping, we are hoping, for a political settlement in the near future and in view of this great wave of feeling that went through the country we felt and I still feel that nothing would have been more likely to prejudice the chances of settlement than harsh action against these men, and for that reason it was decided to extend clemency to all those who had joined the I.N.A. unless they had also committed acts of brutality. Sir, it is one thing to extend clemency when

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an offence is recognized and proved but it is another thing to pretend that the offence has not taken place and that it is nothing and it is unimportant. We said and still say that the offence that these men committed was the most serious that a soldier can commit. We have brought a very small number of them to trial for that offence. We have proved the offence against them and they have been convicted and sentenced and we have extended mercy and left them off because of the background of which I have spoken.

There is an argument put forward that we ought to have waited until an autonomous Government came into power. That would have meant waiting how long—we do not know,—and till then, for nine or ten months, all these men would have to be kept shut up. What we have done is to let off quickly as many as we can. 9,500 are out already. I said the other day there were 6,000 under interrogation. More recent figures are 4,225. So we are making progress. I hope we shall get the whole lot out, except those who are still to be tried, by the 1st April. That date may go back according to my latest information, because those who have been coming in recently have been guilty of considerable indiscipline and are refusing to answer questions, so that that causes a longer delay in interrogation.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (Delhi: General): What is the latest figure?

**Mr. P. Mason:** 4,225.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Under interrogation now?

**Mr. P. Mason:** Yes. I come now to a very important point. Before I take it up, may I point out, Mr. President, that the Mover of the motion had 40 minutes. May I have with your permission another 10 minutes?

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member can have another ten minutes. I have allowed more time to the Mover and the Honourable Member replying on behalf of Government but I do not want other speakers to exceed the time limit.

**Mr. P. Mason:** Now, Sir, I come to a very important question, why the sentence of Shah Nawaz was commuted when he was convicted of abetment of murder. If one studies the question with a logical mind, the answer to that is pretty simple. Once you decide that you are not going to punish for the offence of joining the I. N. A., you must concede the principle that anything that anyone did in the I. N. A. which he might legitimately and reasonably suppose it was his duty to do, for that also he must be forgiven. Once he joined the I. N. A., he intended to fight and if he shot somebody in fighting, he must be excused for this. Shah Nawaz passed on an order which he received from higher authority regarding execution of men who wished to desert. I think myself that the orders were harsh—they were much harsher than we should have given—but they purported to be legal orders and for that reason his offence in that respect was only technically murder and was part of his whole course of action in joining the I. N. A.

Now, Sir, I come to the cases of brutality. Some one said that it was funny that we should talk of brutality. You may think it still more funny that I should talk about brutality when it was I who defended what happened at Bahadurgarh the other day. But my attitude is quite consistent. What I said in relation to Bahadurgarh was that brutality did not take place. The moment Government know that brutality has taken place, they will proceed against that person. But we will not punish without proof. And I would invite anyone to contrast what happened at Bahadurgarh with what happened at Bidadari. I would welcome a comparison. At Bahadurgarh, as a punishment for having assaulted a guard, men were ordered to do P. T. at the double for two hours on three consecutive days. As soon as discipline was restored, after an hour and a half that parade was called off and the remaining two parades were not held. At Bidadari not for a specific offence but just for not joining the I. N. A. men were day after day subjected to parades which began at 7 in the morning and ended at 6 in the evening.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I should not like to interrupt the Honourable Member, but I am afraid this is an exaggerated statement of facts as proved in the court.

**Mr. P. Mason:** The facts are correct. Those parades did not consist of P.T. at the double but of carrying sacks of earth and, in some cases to increase the humiliation, sacks of dung at the double.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** That was the daily fatigue.

**Mr. P. Mason:** Yes, it was the daily fatigue. All medical attention was refused and if a man went for medical attention, he was told: "Nothing for you unless you join the I. N. A." I invite attention and I invite contrast with Bahadurgarh.

Now, Sir, I was asked the other day why Abdur Rashid got his sentence . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, Order: The Honourable Member can resume that point after lunch.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

**Mr. P. Mason:** Sir, I have tried to explain the policy which the Government have followed with regard to those who joined the enemy and who appear to have been misled, and with regard to those who joined the enemy and who did what they could to help the enemy after joining it. I have explained why the policy of clemency and mercy was decided upon for them and I have explained that against those who are charged with crimes of brutality, the prosecutions will proceed. I have just reached a point at which I was endeavouring to explain the difference between the case of Captain Shah Nawaz, whose punishment was commuted and the case of Captain Abdur Rashid who has been sentenced and who is just beginning to undergo that sentence. I explained something about the conditions in the Bidadari camps. The accused Abdur Rashid was in charge of three camps, the Bidadari detention camp, the Officers segregation camp, which was only slightly less shocking, and another camp in which the conditions were more reasonable. I have to be a little careful in speaking on this subject because there are a number of other cases pending and in progress in which people are charged with atrocities in connection with these camps. But I can say that there is definite evidence of systematic and continuous brutalities carried out in those camps and the case which has just completed has proved that such atrocities were carried out for a long period and has also proved in the case of the accused, four specific offences. In one case Abdur Rashid himself took part in beating a man who was caught by the I. N. A. in Singapore. The man was Havildar clerk, Taj Muhammad Khan, a fellow Muslim. He was a man in the Indian Army. After the fall of Singapore, he was living as a civilian in Singapore. He was rounded up by the I. N. A. who brought him in. They thought him to be a deserter from the I. N. A. They charged him with this, but he refused to admit it, and the accused—Abdur Rashid—ordered him to be beaten and he with two other men beat him personally. They then suspended him from a tree, until he lost consciousness. He was then brought down. He, of course, had no medical help. The following day, the treatment was repeated, for a second time he was tied up to a tree, and then he gave in. He said, I have never been a member of the I. N. A., but I will now do whatever you tell me to do. So, he had to join the I. N. A. That was Taj Muhammad Khan. The second case was that of Havildar Ram Rikh, who for the same reason was ordered by the accused—Abdur Rashid—to be taken to the detention camp. I should like to emphasise here the expression used by the accused, who said Ram Rikh was to be given the prescribed treatment. The prescribed treatment consisted in being beaten with sticks in which again the accused took part. He fell to the ground, he was then kicked by the accused and two others until he lost consciousness. There was also the cases of Lieut. Abdul Qadir Shah and Jamedar Muhammad Nawaz, both of whom for refusing to join the I. N. A. were subjected to various humiliations and were

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beaten by the orders of the accused—Abdur Rashid. In one case, grievous hurt was caused. And when one of these men called out for mercy in the name of God, Abdur Rashid replied, 'In this camp, I am the only God'. Well, Sir, these are proved cases, and a Court Martial is an extremely fair and impartial court. The procedure of a Court martial is so devised that it gives every chance to the accused. In fact, I do not mind saying that as an executive officer, I have sometimes felt that it gave too much latitude to the accused. Those charges which I just mentioned are those in which Abdur Rashid was found guilty. No one can say that those follow from his duty as a member of I. N. A. In fact, I read out to the House the other day the views expressed on this subject by the Chairman of the India Independence League. He expressed his horror at learning that a large number of men of the Indian army had been shot, tortured and humiliated and forced . . . .

**Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan** (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Shot by whom?

**Mr. P. Mason:** By the I. N. A., and forced to join the I. N. A. Now, Sir, the attitude of the Government in this matter is very clear. I ask for the same standards to be applied in any case of brutality. I do not want any distinction made between Bahadurgarh, and Bidadari, between Nilganj and Kranji. I would ask those on the other side of the House who suggest that we should give up these particular trials, I would ask them to consider what it means, what are the grounds on which they should be given up. The accused may think themselves that the brutality was committed in a good cause, in good faith. Can any cause justify such an act or cause you to think they were done in execution of their duty? If that is so, it seems to me to follow logically that you will have to excuse every jailor who exceeds his duty and who commits brutality. That is our case for prosecuting cases of brutality. It makes no difference whether the accused is a Muslim or a Hindu, it makes no difference whether he belongs to the Indian army or to the Indian National Army in Malaya, the same standard is being applied.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Have you applied that standard to the policemen and military here in India?

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

**Mr. P. Mason:** Sir, I will now turn to cases to which my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga referred the other day, speaking of those who were hanged, and those who were sentenced by courts martial before the fall of Singapore. Now, Sir, the circumstances in which those men were captured, the circumstances in which they were tried, were very different from those about which I have been speaking so far. At that time the war was raging; the soldiers of the Indian army were fighting for their lives and for our lives—yours and mine and there were many cases of I. N. A. bullets striking down men in the Indian army. And at that time we applied the normal military law and proceeded against those men, as I am sure any other civilised country in the world at war would have done. They were given trial by courts martial; they were given defence counsel, and when they were convicted their sentences were carried out. There are, as I explained the other day, fourteen men serving terms of imprisonment as a result of those courts-martial and, as I also explained, the question of reconsidering and reviewing those sentences is now being considered and thought about.

Sir, I have tried to explain the policy of Government; it is exactly expressed in the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan as amended by myself. I prefer Nawab Siddique Ali Khan's motion to that moved by the Honourable the Mover because it is a clear-cut issue which concerns the I. N. A. only; it does not bring in the other political detenus, with whom personally as a department we are not concerned, and it is the I. N. A. on which I think a clean verdict is called for.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Sir, may I interrupt the Honourable Member just to make one point clear? Supposing the amendment which the Honourable Member wants to amend is not moved, may I take it that Government will agree to the Resolution?

**Mr. P. Mason:** I could not agree to that.

**Mr. President:** That amendment has already been moved.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** There is notice of an amendment to an amendment that has been moved by one Party. Supposing that amendment is not moved, then naturally the amendment by which you seek to amend that amendment will fall to the ground and therefore the original Resolution will stand.

**Mr. President:** The position is that the first amendment to which the Honourable Member is referring has already been moved.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** But supposing it is not pressed to a division?

**Mr. President:** That raises a problematical question.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I raised it just to know where we stand.

**Mr. P. Mason:** Sir, I have explained why we feel very strongly that my amendment should be added to that moved by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan. I have tried to explain to the House the reason for the policy we have followed and its object. I would ask my Honourable friends over there to consider whether the policy which we have followed has not been one of extreme clemency, whether in fact there is any other Government in the world that would have gone so far as we have. And I will go further. I would ask them whether in their heart of hearts they really believe that they would themselves have gone so far as we have.

**Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan:** There would have been no occasion for it.

**Shri Sri Prakasa** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We do not want to rule any other country.

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

**Mr. P. Mason:** Sir, there is a very old saying which I would like to bring to the notice of my Honourable friends on the other side. It was made two hundred years ago by Dr. Johnson who said that every man in his heart of hearts at some time or another despises himself because he is not a soldier. I for one have often felt like that during the last six years, and I think most of us who are civilians have felt the same. But I have felt very proud indeed to be connected, in however small and humble a way, with the Indian army; and I think that whatever their political views may be every Indian must really inside himself feel very proud of the Indian army. He must be proud of what they have done in many battles all over the world,—at Gallabat, at Keren, at Agheila, at Alamain and the crossing of the Senio river and the Sangro river in Italy; on all these occasions they have shown their gallantry and their fortitude and their endurance which were all equal to those of any soldiers in the world. But I think you ought to be still more proud—and I know I am—of the endurance of those 45,000 men who in spite of the circumstances which I spoke about this morning, in spite of the world which seemed to be crumbling about their ears, had remained faithful to one single principle that they would not change sides and fight against their former friends. I would ask my Honourable friends to look into the future—I asked them this morning to look into the past—and think what may happen in ten years' time, when perhaps party feelings are running high. Would you then wish the officers and soldiers of your army to put before their allegiance to the State their allegiance to a party or perhaps to a religious community? Is that what you want? Or do you want the spirit of men like Captain Badhwar who, as you have heard, was confined in a cage for over 80 days unable to lie down or to sit because he refused to fight against his friends? Or men like Captain Ansari who was beheaded because he refused to fight against his friends? And finally Subedar-Major Hari Singh who was subjected to such constant and repeated brutalities that he lost first his hearing, then his sight,

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then his reason and finally his life? That man gave everything he had to give for one simple reason, that he would not fight against his friends. That, Sir, I suggest, is the spirit which you want in the Indian army of the future; and I hope, Sir, that nothing will be said in this House or done in this House that might serve to destroy that spirit.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** (Assam: European): Sir, never since I first became a Member of this House have I risen to speak on any issue so reluctantly as I rise today; for I feel that this occasion is one of those on which though silence might be incompatible with the responsibility of this Group, speech may nevertheless be unhelpful. Few events in recent history have stirred up as deep and widespread emotion as has been aroused by the subject of what is called the Indian National Army. Much of that emotion has been spontaneous and much, too, has been stirred up by a carefully thought out and elaborately planned and executed campaign of publicity in the press and on the platform,—a campaign the organizers of which have perhaps been more concerned with winning a temporary political triumph than with considering the long term welfare of this country. Whether that emotion has been spontaneous or induced, it has had one effect: It has clouded reason; it has warped judgment; it has made the judicial approach to this problem almost impossible. Sir, the problem we are considering is the problem whether certain men should be tried or should not be tried for certain alleged offences. That is a problem which needs to be approached not in an atmosphere of heat and emotion, but in a calm judicial spirit. I very much deplore the fact, that what has taken place in various parts of the country with regard to this matter, has made that judicial approach practically impossible. We in this Group have had to try to make, and we have tried to make, an effort of imaginative sympathy to understand the strange complex of emotion which is seething round this question of the Indian National Army. For to us who live in a completely self-governing country, no corresponding problem could possibly arise. To us, when a man goes over to the enemy, the issue is a simple one: Did he go under duress or did he go voluntarily? If he went voluntarily, there is no more to be said; he has to pay the penalty for doing so, and so we have no heartburnings about Joyce or Amery. We have not to bother as to whether those people should have been tried or what their sentences should have been. But we have to recognize that the position is much more difficult in a country such as India, a country going through a transition phase, a country which has not yet attained, though it is about to attain, full self-government, and we recognize that under those circumstances and in the high emotions which are generated, terms lose their ordinary connotation, that men's minds become confused. That words like loyalty and patriotism, which to us are simple terms, must necessarily become blurred in their meaning in the minds of people of this country. We have to recognize, for example, that loyalty and patriotism may mean several different things to different sets of my Honourable friends here. To some they may mean the primary duty of a soldier to be faithful to his sworn allegiance; to another man they may mean that he will devote himself to what he believes to be the cause of India's freedom before everything; to my Honourable friends here they perhaps mean devotion to Pakistan; and to my Honourable friends there an equal devotion to Akhand Hindusthan. We, therefore, have to judge the I. N. A. against background of what is happening today, against this process of mental confusion which has been going on for a long time. The confusion has not been confined to matters inside the borders of this country. It has extended to relations outside and to the meaning and significance of the war which we have recently fought. And so though to us in this Group it has always been clear that India's main need was to see Japan beaten, there have been some of my Honourable friends, who have been less clear on that subject. They have swung backwards and forwards. One day they felt that Japan must at all cost be beaten, and the next day they felt that it was still more urgent and still more imperative to snatch their freedom, as they put it, from British hands. We in this Group know that they were mistaken; we know that no question of snatching freedom arises. But we have to recognize the fact that this confusion

did exist in men's minds. Divided feelings and confused thoughts—I do not know whether the divided feelings produced the confused thought, or whether the confused thoughts produced the divided feelings. But the fact remains that, thanks to the circumstances of this country, many people were uncertain of their duty. To put it in another way, many people failed to receive that clear lead from their leaders which was never more badly wanted and it is against this background of confusion and lack of leadership that the men of the Indian National Army have to be judged. We know that when in circumstances like these words lose their meaning, people begin to take oaths with mental reservations, simple loyalties are forgotten, it becomes difficult for the simple man to remember what allegiance means and, above all, to remember that the allegiance of a volunteer is something to be placed highly above the allegiance of a conscript in other countries. It would be disastrous, disastrous to the future of this country, if this kind of mental confusion continued. But it is for my Indian friends and not for us here in this Government to discover how to reconcile those conflicting loyalties. It is for them to discover how best to maintain that military tradition, the tradition of unwavering obedience, on which their best hopes will rest. It is for them to determine what attitude now towards this question of the Indian National Army, will lay the surest and strongest foundations of their self-governing India in the near future. But although that duty rests with them and not with us, there are still one or two aspects of the problem on which I can usefully comment.

My first comment would be an appeal. It would be an appeal not to lose our sense of proportion, not to concentrate our attention so exclusively upon these comparatively few men who have been tried or are being tried, as to forget that very much greater number of men who remained firm to their duty. Do not in thinking about these few, forget the forty-five thousand who resisted all torture, all blandishment, all inducement and refused to break the oath which they had sworn. For you, Sir, and for us who have lived in comfort and safety during the war, it is not easy to realize what was involved in standing firm as a prisoner of war in the hands of the Japanese.

**An Honourable Member:** What about prisoners of war under you?

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** I will discuss that point on some other more suitable occasion. Sir, it is not easy to realize, least of all is it easy for my interrupting friend to realize, what was involved in standing firm against the pressure of the Japanese Army. There is only one way of realizing it: That is to read the accounts of some of the deeds of bravery and heroism which were exhibited by those forty-five thousand men. The Honourable the War Secretary referred to the case of Subedar-Major Bohra. I wonder how many of my friends on this side of the House have taken the trouble to read the citation in which the declaration was awarded to that man for his magnificent resistance.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** We have inside knowledge of how things have been happening; we know the inside story.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers. If my Honourable friends will spare a little time to study some of these citations they will begin to realize what was involved in the gallantry of these forty-five thousand men. What is being done for them? Why are there no cheers for them when they return to their villages? Why are not reception parties arranged for them? Why are there no garlands for their shoulders? What are my Honourable friends doing to show that they appreciate this unparalleled example of resistance and staunchness? And what is Government doing?

**An Honourable Member:** And what are you doing? (Other interruptions).

**Mr. President:** Let there be no interruptions.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** What is Government doing to show its appreciation of the action of these men? Just as I charge my Honourable friends on that side of the House with failing to appreciate what these men have done for us, so too I charge my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches with an equal failure. What are they doing in the way of special awards and special privileges for these men who stood firm?

**Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma** (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural):  
What has the European Group done?

**Mr. President:** Order, order. Let there be no interruptions.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** I appeal to my Honourable friends on that side of the House to keep a sense of proportion about these men under trial. Don't let us forget the great fact, the glorious fact that forty-five thousand people stood firm under an ordeal which few of us could have hoped to resist. (Interruptions.) But after all the real issue is, should these men be tried, or should they not be tried. I suppose we have to begin dividing them into two categories.

3 P. M. First, those who acted under duress. For them we can feel nothing but sympathy. No man who has not been through an ordeal of that kind has the right to judge men who fell by the way because they could not resist. Sympathy is the only possible attitude. And then you have the others—the ones who were misled by mistaken patriotic motives. Let us appreciate their motives. Let us acknowledge that in many cases it was genuine patriotism. But do not let us disguise from ourselves the fact that it was mistaken patriotism. Don't let it make us forget that they were wrong. If they had had their way, my Honourable friends interrupting would not have been sitting in this House in comfort. (Interruptions.)

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** You would not have been either!

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** I hardly expect my Honourable friends to pay much attention to a sentiment of that kind coming from me, but they may perhaps be more impressed to know that the same sentiment was expressed by Pandit Nehru in his talk to a press conference in June last year when Pandit Nehru said emphatically, speaking particularly of Subhas Bose, "if he thinks India can get her freedom with the help of the Japanese he is wrong." Don't take my word for it but take Pandit Nehru's word, and accept the fact. (Interruptions.)

**Mr. President:** Order, order. Interruptions are not a contribution to the debate.

**An Honourable Member:** He has no right to misrepresent.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member has also a right to reply.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** Interruptions have one value: they are stimulating. Don't let the fact that you understand and sympathise with the motives of these men warp your judgment and cloud your reason and make you fail to see that they were wrong. Do you not think it would have been a bad thing if the whole of the Indian Army followed the example of these men and joined the Japanese? (Interruptions.)

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** If my friends think it would have been a good thing, I think I can confront them with the words of their own great leader. (Interruptions.)

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** Surely in this matter the rational view is to try and distinguish between the different types of charges. First you have those men charged with making war against the King, Emperor, with desertion and other crimes. However serious they may be, they were crimes of a purely military nature. So far as we are concerned, we in this Group, bearing in mind all the circumstances, support the suggestion that they should be let off. Next we turn to another and different category of crimes—and here I think the Honourable the War Secretary has made the issue more than clear—, crimes which involve brutality and cruelty. So far as we are concerned, brutality will be brutality and cruelty will be cruelty whatever may serve to cloak it from view for the time being. We will accept no argument that misguided motives or political ideas or any intentions, however lofty, can turn brutality into anything else or can stop cruelty from being something which deserves the reprobation of all rightminded men. So our point of view is quite clear—that we

will not agree, in so far as we have any power to influence these decisions, that crimes of brutality and cruelty should be exempt from trial because some of the prisoners concerned are said to have been inspired by patriotic motives.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** That itself is brutal!

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** Will not the main foundation of a self-governing India be the maintenance of a real sense of moral values? Must not the ordinary man know how to distinguish right from wrong? Must he not know what loyalty means? (Interruptions).

**An Honourable Member:** What about the British?

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** Don't fuss about the British. We are going.

**Mr. President:** I may remind the Honourable Member of the time limit. (Interruptions.)

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** Let me say this that what is happening is that there is growing up in the minds of the people in this country a confusion of moral values which will stand India in bad stead in the years to come.

**Mr. Manu Subedar** (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Why are you worried about it?

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** Don't arrogate to yourself the monopoly of care for this country! Indian soldiers are beginning to say "if these are the heroes what did I fight for"? The widows in the villages of India will say "If these are men who deserve well of the country, why did our husbands die?" Don't let..... (Interruptions). I am sorry my remarks are getting so much under my friends skin. I cannot help it. These men fought and died because they knew that only by their death and their gallantry could this country be saved. At the moment all our thoughts are fogged and emotionalised by the constitutional issue. When that issue is settled, when India, a self-governing India, has attained her full status in the comity of nations, what do you want men to remember about India's war effort?

**An Honourable Member:** Subhas Bose!

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** What you want them to remember is the glorious part played by the Indian Army in all theatres of war. Is it worth while so focussing attention on the problems of the I.N.A. that when in years to come men read the debates of the Assembly they will say that all that this Assembly thought of in connection with the war was the I.N.A.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** A thousand times.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** Don't throw away, for a political triumph, that glory which every level-headed man wants to see accruing to the name of the Indian Army throughout the centuries.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Why did you go to war?

**Mr. President:** Order, order. The Honourable Member may not take up his time in replying to these interruptions. Let him proceed with his argument.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** In this group our decision is clear. We are agreed that the charges against these men, except where they relate to brutality and cruelty, should be dropped. Everybody in this House wants them dropped.

**Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan:** Abetment of murder.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths:** I think this House, and above all this Government is sick of the whole thing. Everyone wants it to be dropped. This Government knows it has bungled over the I.N.A. You know it and I know it. But let us be quite clear as to the reason why we are prepared to have these charges dropped. We are prepared to have them dropped not because we approve of the course taken by the people concerned, not because we can mentally and morally condone their actions, but because we try to understand the motives by which they were misled and misguided. It is in that spirit and because we think that this is a case where justice should be tempered with mercy, while at the same time we must retain our sense of proportion of moral values that we agree to drop these charges. It is because that is our view

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that we are prepared to support the amendment moved by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, provided, and provided only it has tagged on to it the amendment moved by Mr. Mason.

My last word is this. We have had enough debate of a political nature on this matter to satisfy even the most venturesome and vigorous among my friends. Can we not now face up to the straight issue? Do we think these men should be tried or not? The answer is no. And why no? Not for reasons of high politics, but because we think we understand the motives that led them to act in the way they did and we think those motives deserve charitable consideration. If ever I find myself faced with the situation in which those 65,000 found themselves, I hope and I pray that I shall be strong enough to emulate the 45,000, and if I fall by the way, I trust I shall receive the same kind of mercy and consideration which we are willing to hold out to these men today. But I shall not expect that it shall be counted to me by righteousness. I can expect charity and consideration but I cannot expect to be made a national hero if I fail to be true to my oath of allegiance.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Ever since I have come to this House, my Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths, has been a source of great stimulation to me. I do not remember a single occasion when he has spoken and I have not been provoked into some kind of speech which I never intended to make at that time. But today I do not wish to be provoked at all. In the beginning I was thinking whether I should speak on this subject at all for the simple reason that the entire question has been narrowed down to a single issue after the speech of the Honourable Mr. Mason. Were I to join issue with Mr. Griffiths, I am afraid, I would have to speak for a long time and answer him point for point. But for the sense of humour which I have cultivated since I was last in this House in 1940, I may have spoken in great anger and indignation and I may have joined issue on every single point raised by him. There is one point on which I may join issue with him even now. He has spoken with great vigour only to confuse, cloud and obscure the issues before this House and he is very clever at that game. I know that only too well.

It is amazing that for the first time he has spoken in this House with that vigour and vehemence which smack of earnestness and sincerity, I hope he was sincere this time; otherwise the whole of his speech would be perfectly futile. But he seems to have forgotten the fact that if he placed himself in the shoes of Indians and felt as strongly as Indians feel his entire speech would have to be of a different texture. I ask him now to imagine the whole of England under the reign of the Germans. Supposing the Germans had been ruling for about 200 years, and had engaged Britishers in their army and had trained them as effectively as the Britishers have trained our army in India today; and supposing that the units of this army had been sent abroad at a time when Germany was engaged in fighting a war against others, with whom England at that time might not have been at war, what would have been the feelings and actions under those circumstances of the British army. Suppose further that this army, this British army sponsored by Germany operating abroad had turned round and said, "No Germans from now: we must see first that England is free", how would the British have felt about them? This is the context in which Mr. Griffiths must see the entire drama of the Indian National Army, which roused and stirred the imagination and the deepest feelings of the entire country without any difference or distinction of party or creed. This was the only issue before the country on which every single Indian stood by the side of every other Indian forgetting all parties, forgetting all creeds and forgetting all other feelings. My friend, Mr. Griffiths, has said that much of this feeling, much of this sentiment, much of this emotion was genuine and spontaneous. I would request him to revise his opinion. It is not a question of much of it being genuine or spontaneous: The whole of it was absolutely genuine. It was one big emotional upheaval which we could not even dream of. And let me remind him—it is very easy for him or any other gentleman to say that some of this agitation (I will call it "agitation") was stirred by a carefully planned scheme

of publicity—let me remind him of the fact that the moment we came into this picture we applied to the Government, and memorialised the Governor General and pointed out to him that in this particular case great issues were involved, a great deal of emotion was likely to be stirred up and therefore we wanted the Governor General to postpone these cases until the elections were over. But what was the answer? The answer was, "No, justice must take its course". Justice has taken its course. They started the cases and the result is that the very emotional upheaval to which Mr. Griffiths says filip was given by carefully planned publicity was really a genuine upheaval, which had nothing whatsoever to do with any kind of carefully planned publicity. It was all perfectly genuine, because from day to day the evidence in these cases was being led not by us, who were defending these cases, but by the prosecution. They were filing in documents after documents which filled the pages of all the newspapers. All the documents which were produced about the I.N.A. were being devoured by the people, so that the publicity was not manufactured by us, it was manufactured by Government. They ought to thank themselves for all the sins which they want to father upon others. I will not go further than this as far as my friend, Mr. Griffiths, is concerned, for the simple reason that if I waste my time over him I shall miss other issues which are far more important.

Mr. Mason's speech, as far as I can judge, was very conciliatory. I appreciate the spirit in which he spoke but both he and Mr. Griffiths, committed one big error of judgment, because both of them were misinformed, because they did not know the inside history of the I.N.A. Fortunately or unfortunately for them, I happen to know the inside history of the I.N.A., because I have studied it inside out. I have examined men after men and I have interrogated them not with a view merely to defending them but with a view to finding out what mistakes were committed by them and how we could rectify the blunders which the Britishers, in organising the Indian army, have committed in India. And the one lesson which I drew from all that study is that the Indian army, however well organised it might be, lacks the only stimulus, the only belief, the only faith which can move men to lay down their lives, without counting the consequences to themselves. This army has never been organised as a patriotic army to defend India under all circumstances, and which must always keep the interests of the country before it. Love of one's country is a great thing. The Indian army has never been given a cause to fight for. What is the cause for which the Indian army can fight? What is the ideal for which the Indian soldiers can fight to the bitter end? It is the freedom of India. Have they ever been told that they should fight for the freedom of India? They have not been told so.

I was told while I was studying the case, that the Academy, where these Indian officers are trained and brought up, displays in letters of gold these words of Sir Philip Chetwode and they must be borne in mind not only by Mr. Griffiths but also by every one else, who has tried to judge the Indian National Army. They relate to the duty of Indian soldiers, or for that matter of any soldier in the world. The words are as follows:

"The safety, honour and welfare of your country comes first, always and every time, the honour, welfare and comfort of men you command come next, your own needs, comfort and safety come last, always and every time."

It was this maxim which was borne in mind by those who are today charged with having committed a breach of allegiance. I will talk about allegiance in a moment. One owes allegiance to one's country first and to every thing else afterwards. Sir, in International law it is said that allegiance is an inseparable accident. It is an inseparable accident to those who are born under their own Government, under their own crown, but when it comes to a question of allegiance in a country which is governed by another country, true allegiance is what one owes to one's own country. I need not go further than that. Mr. Mason talked a great deal about allegiance and I endorse much of what he said only with this modification. He might turn round and say "I quoted to you the oath which these people had taken. There was the oath but they broke their oath even from their own point of view." I should just like to examine the validity of the

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali] charge that they had broken the oath which they had taken. This is the concluding portion of the oath which these soldiers are expected to take:

"I will obey the commands of my officers even to the peril of my life."

These are my own words but I believe that is the essence of the oath. And what were the commands of their officers after Singapore had fallen on the 15th February, 1942? On the 17th February, 1942, in that famous Farrar Park meeting, where 60,000 soldiers and officers were assembled, Col. Hunt goes to the microphone, addresses the entire gathering there and says "We have surrendered: now I surrender you to the Japanese"

**Mr. P. Mason:** No, Sir: not surrender.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I would not be inclined to challenge whatever Mr. Mason may say now. In any case Lt.-Col. Hunt definitely and positively told these people to obey the commands of the Japanese officers in the same way as they had been obeying the commands of the British officers.....

**Mr. P. Mason:** No.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** These people were handed over to the Japanese bound hand and foot like a flock of sheep; and after that to say that they were not deserted is to my mind the most disgraceful statement to make here. I am not charging Mr. Mason with making a misstatement Mr. Mason is fortunately only holding a brief, but I know what happened behind the scenes. I asked for General Percival to be produced in court but he was not forthcoming. I would have liked to see his face in a court of law and I would have shown how far he was responsible. He was the one man responsible for the entire disaster, this unprecedented disaster of the Malayan campaign. There were others also besides him. And what were the predisposing causes in the case of these I.N.A. people? The predisposing causes were more or less those, a brief list of which I shall attempt now. I do not intend to go into all these causes—because the issue is very brief and narrow; but unfortunately these issues have been raised and therefore I am attempting to meet them. The predisposing causes were these. In the first place most of the armies that went out from India in 1940 were fully aware of the circumstances and conditions of the north-eastern defences. The question of the north-eastern defences had often been raised by me in this House: I drew the Government's attention in this House from time to time to show that they had been criminally negligent as far as the north-eastern defences were concerned; and from one of opposite seats the Home Member or the Defence Secretary used to smile and answer my questions and tell me "You people know nothing about it; we know our business." Then after years of hammering, the Chatfield Committee was brought out and what was their finding in regard to our defences? They found in 1939, 1940 that the defences of this country were deficient by 45 crores worth of capital works and other urgent requirements, and that was the time they were building up Singapore. These debates were taking place, and this unpreparedness was fully known to the army.

The next cause was inadequate training and equipment even after the outbreak of the war. The period of training was reduced from two years to six months. People trained for six months were sent out: they knew nothing about warfare; they knew nothing about the kind of terrain they were to operate in; they did not even have enough maps: there were not enough maps to go round to the officers. These were the conditions under which they were operating.

Next came the training with dummy weapons. In Malaya itself and on the mainland and elsewhere they were training with dummy weapons, and suddenly either up-to-date or inferior weapons were put into their hands. There was no tank support; there was no air support; and the entire training in Malaya was for retreat. They were retreating from Thailand backwards and day after day these poor fellows were faced with the difficulty of being called upon to retreat; and when the Japanese came along and overran the mainland

and later on broke through every single defence that had been built up, the whole of the army had to fall back upon Singapore; and in Singapore, every one of them was telling the other "What is the good of being here?" News was being broadcast that the Germans had reached Alamein, that the Japanese had broken through, and the entire force, of 60,000 and more consisting of Indian, Australian and British troops had all been surrendered to the Japanese. In fact three divisions of the British Army surrendered to two Japanese divisions. Under these circumstances, can you ever imagine these people dreaming of keeping any kind of oath they had ever taken? Even if they had been first-rate soldiers they could not have dreamt of it. The Crown had ceased to exist for them.

Mr. Mason next talked about the 45,000 soldiers who were true to their salt; and Mr. Griffiths also has very eloquently paid a very high tribute to the faithfulness and loyalty of these people. I know what kind of faithfulness they showed: they had escaped death once: and they did not want to risk their lives again; that was the whole truth. Even then a large number of them were among the surplus volunteers of the I.N.A. We were talking of a certain gentleman. I do not wish to name him. I wish Mr. Mason had not mentioned names. I wish Mr. Griffiths had not mentioned names. I know the history of these people and all that I need say about it is this: that I know it for a fact that their offers were not accepted, they were not allowed to join the I.N.A. and they come back and tell you that they were faithful and loyal people and all the rest of it. We know their history. That is not the truth. I do not wish to malign any one: it is furthest from my thoughts: I would be the last man to malign a single Indian soldier. I would be the last to speak ill of a single Indian officer. Under the circumstances I would not put any blame upon any one. I actually sympathise with them. In the deepest recesses of my heart I have nothing else but sympathy for them. I except none, because I know that those who joined the I.N.A. and the others who did not, were in an extremely difficult and a very complex position. Do not let us go into all those complex matters. This is not the occasion for talking about it. If any occasion arises, I think I can deal with the whole situation very much more effectively than I can in twenty minutes time now.

Now, let me come to the actual issue which faces us. The Resolution as it stands before the House, is a simple one. The Resolution contemplates only the release of two classes of persons (1) the I.N.A. personnel, and (2) the political prisoners and detenus. The principle underlying the Resolution is exactly the same: it applies to both equally. The very consideration of patriotism for which we are calling upon the Government to release the I.N.A. personnel and which has been recognised by both Mr. Mason and Mr. Griffiths applies to the others who were in India. The same sentiment, the same emotion, the same objective, the same purpose and the same outlook characterise both of them. One was acting inside India along certain lines, and the other was acting outside the country. Therefore the principle is exactly the same. It must apply to both. I do not see why one should be differentiated from the other. I am very glad indeed that Mr. Mason in propounding Government's policy today has made it clear that the Government has come to the conclusion that all these I.N.A. personnel will be released sooner or later. I want them to be released sooner than later. On that point let us all be agreed. They say they will be released up to the first April, barring some persons who may have to be interrogated and who may be coming in etc. etc. But I am talking of those who have already been interrogated at great length and who, as every one knows, have been in detention for a very long time. I take the cases of those who were taken along with Shah Nawaz and Sahgal, and others,—Colonel Loganathan, for instance, Bhonsle, Gill and many others. I can feel off a number of names—Jehangir, Azir Ahmad, Talib and so on. I have not got the whole list before me. If I had it would take me time to read it over. So many were taken along with them. They have been interrogated once and for all and

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I do not see why they should not be let out. There are many others. Now, this Government has decided that these men will be released sooner or later; the sooner it is done the better.

Now, I come to the case of those in respect of whom Mr. Mason would like us to agree to an exception. Those are the cases of persons who, according to the Government, are guilty of brutality. I do not want to comment on this word 'brutality'. It is a much abused word and it is being flung about freely. We fling it across the floor to the Treasury Benches and the Treasury Benches fling it across at us. But one thing is perfectly certain. These charges will continue to be bandied until this country is free of foreign domination. When this country is free of foreign domination, these charges will change their colour. These charges will then be flung at the Government that may be sitting over there and other charges may be flung back at those sitting here. That will be a different story but the fact of the matter is that the very principle which Mr. Mason says Government is applying to the consideration of the I.N.A. personnel demands that the question of brutality should be ruled out. Why? The entire age of the I.N.A. covers three periods. The first period is that of the first I.N.A. which was built up by Mohan Singh. I shall not go into the history of that now. It is a very fascinating history. The day it comes out even Mr. Mason will find it very absorbing reading. Others will find it exceedingly absorbing reading. The first I.N.A. lasted practically from the day the Bidadari Resolutions were passed in March 1942, down to the 28th December, 1942. It is the first period. This was the period of preparation and this I.N.A. was inspired by two considerations. The first was that this army was formed for the purpose of liberating India. They laid down a condition. They said that they would fight for the liberation of India only if the Indian people asked them to do so.

**Mr. President:** I would remind the Honourable Member of the time limit.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I shall finish in five minutes. They knew that there was a possibility of the Japanese utilising them and therefore it is wrong to say that these people had formed this army for the purpose of collaborating with the Japanese or for being stooges of the Japanese. They were not stooges of the Japanese. They were thinking men who had only said to themselves—now if the Japanese are likely to go into India, they will be a danger to India. Let us have arms, so that at least at some stage we may be able to turn our arms against them. They knew that and it was with that intention that they started this army and later on they knew that the Japanese would not arm them properly and the truth is there. Out of the 20,000 that my friend, Mr. Mason is talking about, the Japanese were not prepared to arm more than 10,000, because the Japanese were fully aware of the fact that if they armed the whole lot they did not know which way they would turn. It is not true to say that the I.N.A. was formed for acting as stooges of the Japanese. These people organised themselves as a proper army. They were acting under their own regular code and any punishment that was meted out to those who had committed any infraction of their laws and rules must be judged by those people and not by us here, not by this Government here. In fact, our original proposal was that the whole issue of the I.N.A. should be left over to the new Government that was to come into power. We hear a great deal of our taking up office and of transfer of power. Why don't they wait until the transfer of power has taken place and let us deal with the situation, because then whatever punishment may be deemed necessary will be inflicted upon those who are real culprits by the consent of the people themselves, because the people will have judged them, and not a foreign government. Whatever you may say, this Government is a foreign government. Nobody can deny that. The Indians sitting on the Treasury Benches may have the best of motives but unfortunately they are still collaborators of the foreign government and they are looked upon as collaborators of the foreign government.

Therefore we say—wait until the new Government has taken its seat and

then let the new Government deal with the whole case. The position is this. Whatever the charges—brutality or anything else—they must be investigated by those who are in a position to do so, namely, the organisers of the I.N.A. or the people who sympathise with the I.N.A., not by any one else. That is the only way to deal with it.

I shall just say one word about Abdur Rashid's case. That is one of the cases which has caused a great deal of excitement and has aroused feeling all over the country. I studied this case in the usual course and marked it out as a case for acquittal, not for conviction. Why? As Mr. Mason himself has admitted, Abdur Rashid was in charge of three camps. These three camps were organised by the I.N.A. How do you know that the people who were undergoing fatigues or people who were being dealt with as offenders against certain rules were not the people who actually belong to the I.N.A. and who had been sentenced to various terms of punishment and who were kept in these camps. It is easy for these people now to come and say we were being tortured, we were being persuaded or coerced into joining the I.N.A. It is difficult to sift the chaff from the wheat at this stage but it is a fact that many of these people who were subjected to certain punishments were persons who had committed various offences. Some had committed theft. Others had committed worse offences than theft and they were sent to these camps and they were being punished. It is not up to this Government to deal with those cases. Those cases could only be dealt with by the organisers of the I.N.A. and their officers. The whole episode is dead and gone. Why talk about it. Drop it. Present the country with a clean slate. When they say that independence is coming to India in a very short time and the people will be governing themselves and if they are so solicitous of that Government and the people that they want to lecture us today about our duties regarding the army and how it should be looked after and so on and so forth, I would request them to forget the entire episode. Present the country with a clean slate as regards the I.N.A. personnel and as regards the politicals and let the country feel that it is not a question of merely gulling us into the belief that independence is coming. No, this Government should say that it is determined to see that this country should be free as speedily as possible, and when the country is free, the country will deal with the whole situation. If they do that, then it is obvious that better atmosphere will prevail in the country and the summation which is being talked about now will be considered as a possibility. It cannot be a possibility so long as the present Government continues to act in the old spirit and does not let the country think that there spirit has undergone a change.

**Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee** (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I am not a politician and, therefore, I cannot talk in the language of politicians. It may be true that I find myself in this House in four different Assemblies, but, at the same time, I would say that it is only an accident and not my fault. Therefore, it is difficult for me to speak after the eloquent and spirited speeches of my Honourable friends Mr. Griffiths and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. If I speak as one who from the age of 19 has tried to serve in a humble capacity the cause of education in this country, I do not want to make any apologies for my speech but because what I wish to say is what I have learnt from the experience of a life-time and what, to my mind, is the true essence of education. I think that education, if it is worth while, is meant to teach people, to teach the rising generation and I think even the present generation the one great truth of life, namely, that mankind are brothers because God, or whatever name we may call him by, is the Father of all. Therefore, on that note I interpose in this debate to ask and to put forward a plea for goodwill on all sides. At the present juncture when this world is recovering from one of the most terrible maladies that has overtaken us, because war and all that accompanies it is the worst of all evils that mankind suffers from, I feel that a broader view is necessary, that a wider goodwill is necessary and that all those who are charged with the affairs of mankind and the affairs of nations should at the

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present time make that goodwill their foreword and their guiding principle in life.

Now, in this connection I feel that it is futile at this moment to discuss the merits of the behaviour of the men who joined the I. N. A. It is even more futile to pursue what should be done to them. There was an adjournment motion on this subject before this House and the debate today has shown the most varied opinion as to the merits and demerits of these men. The Mover of this Resolution honestly believes, that these men were star heroes. The other day my Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, said that they were patriots, and he qualified that statement by saying that, according to these standards, all kinds of men are patriots. That is another view. I can also understand the viewpoint of Mr. Mason and the viewpoint of those whom he represents. They feel that these men failed in their duty because they failed to discharge the obligations which were laid on them because of the oath which they had taken. These are all different points of view. What I submit is that the whole question of this I. N. A. is today removed from the realm of reason and from the world of practical issues. It has become an emotional incident and an emotional problem of the greatest volume. Therefore, it is futile to try to discuss the merits of this man or that man. Today the precincts of this building have been ringing with the shouts of a huge procession, composed of hundreds of youth, who are shouting "Abdur Rashid zindabad".

Now, what I want to ask my friend Mr. Mason is this: Is it of any value, is it of any use to continue these trials? Whom does he propose, whom does he hope to convince? Nobody can be convinced. Everybody's mind is made up; everybody has formed his opinion because he held his opinions from the very beginning. I have talked to a great many people,—my own countrymen and to a number of my European friends,—I do not claim that I move with the great or with those who are in great power—but I mean those who compose the average Englishman. I have not come across one single man up-till now, including army officers, who has for a moment claimed that there was any wisdom or foresight in staging these trials. They have all along said that it has been a blunder. Mr. Griffiths said so today in the House. Why not, therefore, realise that this has been a colossal blunder or, shall I use more classical language, a Himalayan blunder. It has been the blunder of the utmost magnitude, because, so far as I can read history, never has any incident stirred the emotion of this country so greatly since the partition of Bengal as this occurrence. The partition of Bengal was fought to the last ditch; it was carried out. What has been the good of it? Is there a British statesman in this country today who can claim that any good came out of partitioning Bengal, particularly to the order of things as they then stood? In the same way, I ask what good could come out to British Government or the Government which follows it by pursuing these trials. These are a closed chapter and I appeal in the name of goodwill that this chapter should be closed.

A little time ago—it was just before the war—a certain book was published. It was an extremely interesting book and it was called "A long week-end". It was written by two historians to illustrate the fact that the 20 years or less than 20 years between World War I and the World War II were a long week-end, when politicians and statesmen—I do not know whether you can call them statesmen—were all the time preparing for World War II and because there was so much temporary prosperity, the tired soldiers and the tired civilians enjoyed themselves as tired people do, when they can get a long week-end. Now, Sir, I ask you, whether we are not in the same situation. This great war has been fought and I have already said that I think war is the worst evil, the worst malady that overtakes humankind. This last war has been the very worst malady suffered by the human race. Now, Sir, are we going again to have a long week end? Are we going to plan to plunging the world, plunging this country of ours also into that stream of bitterness which grows and grows till it overflows and engulfs us into World War No. III. I think that is the main

issue. The other day—when I say this to those of my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches, I also address those of my Honourable friends opposite—I recall when the I. N. A. adjournment motion was being discussed, there was a good deal of heat raised and certain of my Honourable friends raised the cry of *Jai Hind*. I, Sir, as a son of India, heartily voice that cry and voice it with as great wholeheartedness as they did. On the other side a little while after, the cry of *Pakistan sindabad* was also raised. I ask, Sir, why should we not also join in that cry. What does *Pakistan* mean? It means holy land. After all, to any man, his motherland is a holy land. *Hindustan* is a holy land and so also is *Pakistan* a holy land. But, Sir, the question is this. Why should we fight even on that issue? I ask my Honourable friends opposite, particularly, any one coming from my own Province, the Punjab, is not *Pakistan* already a reality? Is not *Pakistan* already established in the Punjab? Is it not also an accomplished fact in Bengal, where my ancestors came from. What, is the use of fighting and engendering so much heat over this issue? What is the use of bringing in so much passion over something which has already happened? Why not concede *Pakistan* if it is going to lead to good-will in this country?

Sir, I do not wish to detain the House longer. I once again, repeat that it will make very little difference if a few men are convicted, whether they are convicted of desertion, whether they are convicted of waging war against the King, or finally, Sir, even if they are convicted of brutality. I have great sympathy with my Honourable friend Mr. Mason's point of view. Personally, in my own family I have suffered grievous loss on the Burma front. It is not that I do not sympathise with him, or see his point of view. But I ask him to face the larger issue. Is it going to do any good if six men are convicted and sentenced and then afterwards acquitted. This is all that has come out of these trials, that is all that has been the result of spending millions, probably, it is not millions, but lakhs of money from the public revenue of this country? Nothing more will come out of it and from engendering so much bitterness in this country. I say, Sir, bury the hatchet. Why go on with this thing which you yourself say has been a blunder?

Finally, I would say this. Every day we hear that the Government is a Care-taker Government. Members either threaten to walk over to the other side because it is only a few paces or they say that they are going away. My Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths also says "we are going away". Other people also say, "we are going away". I quite recognise that my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches, before they go away are anxious to give my friends opposite who will soon come to these Benches the result of their experiences, the lessons which they have learnt, and give them excellent tips. My Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali says, "I do not want these tips, I do not want to learn from your experience". That is what I gathered from my Honourable friend's speech, he wants to learn his own lessons.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** That is your interpretation. I learn from every one.

**Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee:** However, the position is this. Why waste your time on teaching them something which they refuse to learn. Therefore, let them carry on, and Sir, if I may use an unparliamentary expression, if they want to stew in their own juice, why don't you allow them to stew in their own juice. Why carry on this sorry episode?

Sir, before I conclude, I wish to close on a note, the note of good-will between man and man, whatever their colour or race or creed or habitation may be.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Or mode of speech either.

**Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee:** Whatever it may be, good-will not only between nations, but good-will in our own country among its different people, who we hope will soon take over the Government of our country.

Finally, Sir, I would remind them of certain words announcing the birth of the founder of my religion. The words were: "Peace on earth among men of good-will." These words seek to dispel the weariness of war, strife and bitterness, the war of killing each other, robbing each other. But peace can only

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some if there are men of good-will, and for that "good-will", I plead, Sir, that good-will between gentlemen who sit here, and the gentlemen who sit across, good-will between the people of different communities that inhabit this land and good-will between the different peoples of this earth.

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi** (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I rise to support the substitute motion proposed by my Honourable friend from Nagpur, for the simple reason that its approach is realistic and clear. It has no propaganda aspect to it, and it means what it says. I cannot accept the amendment moved by the Honourable the War Secretary for the simple reason, astounding as it may be, that he has shifted his ground and is trying to preach morals here to-day. He forgot the real issue. To change the gravamen of the charge from disloyalty to the King or waging war against the King to pure brutality is to give up the whole case. War means brutality and thus no soldier on earth is capable of acting true to his duty without brutality. Therefore, Sir, the War Secretary's amendment leads me to think that he too would like to release all the men and officers of the I. N. A., because if the greater charge of waging war against the King has been given up and mere brutality is stuck to, then the whole case of the Government falls to the ground.

[At this stage, Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan)].

Sir, it is rather funny that the debate went into channels which appear to me rather unreal for the reason that none of the speakers, whom I followed carefully, thought of the action taken by the Commander-in-Chief. If his judgment in the first case was correct, then his judgment in the other Courts Martial must be declared to be incorrect. His advisers have misled him. The policy of showing mercy or the policy of treating these I. N. A. men as different from traitors should have been followed. If they do not, if they consider that one man should be punished and the other should not be punished, then either they are lacking in commonsense or there is complete bankruptcy of statesmanship. Need we probe into the mentality of the Commander-in-Chief or his Advisers? He may have taken action on the ground that by forgiving the three officers whom he had forgiven after the first Court Martial, he was making a gesture of generosity to India. But it may also be interpreted that the

4 P.M. Commander-in-Chief was in a state of funk because of the general howl in the country and therefore he released them; and a third reason that I can think of seems to be that there was danger of the regular army sympathising with their brothers in the I. N. A. Whatever the reason, it would now appear to be ridiculous to punish some and let others go.

Another point, that I have not been able to understand, is why Delhi was chosen for this huge *tamasha*. How much did the trial cost? If the Commander-in-Chief wanted to act under military law, he could have tried these people in Rangoon or in Singapore or elsewhere. To have brought them here, to have spent public money also and afterwards to have set them free,—does become difficult for a layman like me to understand; and then to punish others without rhyme or reason. They too were either worthy of clemency or they were not. The case of Government becomes weaker when the War Secretary preaches another homily to us on the problem of the Oath of Allegiance. The Oath of Allegiance, if broken, must be punished and yet while the Oath of Allegiance was broken they are punishing some and not punishing the others. I expect that some better explanation will come from the War Secretary as to why all this *tamasha* was held in Delhi and public money wasted, than the explanation that he has given to us today. Sir, it is futile to go into the psychology of the men who surrendered. What I have not been able to understand is that if Lieut. Colonel Hunt whose Urdu was defective could not explain himself well why was a senior Indian officer not asked to explain the directions given? The Honourable the War Secretary will perhaps tell us why the Commander-in-Chief of India, through leaflets thrown from airplanes to the soldiers in Malaya and elsewhere asked them to go and join the Japanese for

he sake of sabotage. Sir, I could give a few reasons why the men who later on came to be called the I. N. A. went over to the enemy. You can easily understand that men asked daily to retire from place to place under the strategy of retreats, had got demoralised. This demoralisation must have become aggravated when there was clear discrimination between the white and the black soldiers. We have not got details of how this was done but it is easy to understand the military mind which made the black and white roads in Burma and did not bring back or evacuate non-whites from Malaya and other places in numbers in which they evacuated the white forces. I can understand that our Indian soldiers were left to the wolves. The Indian also loves his life and the Indian in order to save himself did perhaps surrender to the cajoleries of the Japanese. One reason given by the War Secretary today was that they expected better food. On that one ground alone I condemn the Government completely and I demand that they should forget the I. N. A. and adopt measures to release them as soon as possible. The behaviour of the Big Three after the war is also in my favour. The distinctions of colour still exist. The war may have been fought for democracy in official documents but to me it was the biggest colonial war in history. Colonialism disappeared when the enemy came. It Hitler wanted the *lebensraum*, I think we should all agree now that every colonial power also wants *lebensraum*. The morals of the case are not in favour of the Government of India which I have always considered as an agency of the Government in London. International leaders who have gathered together in London are still talking of trusteeships, mandates accessibility to raw materials, strategic bases for world security and so on. Does it at all mean that they are prepared to treat the black and the white on a basis of equality? My answer to that is, 'no.' The rule in Burma, Malaya and elsewhere seems to have been: 'every one to himself and the devil take the hindmost'. They left our men there and they did not bother what was going to happen to them. After such action I think the only fair and reasonable course for the Commander-in-Chief and his advisers is to forget the I. N. A. folk and let them go back home.

Sir, the motion mentions "universal expression of public opinion throughout the country." I am one of those unfortunate human beings in India who find it rather difficult to decide whom to call our national heroes. There is a definite clash of loyalties here. If one side fought for British imperialism the other, without a doubt in my mind, fought for Japanese imperialism. To imagine for a moment that British imperialism would be better than Japanese imperialism would be to think foolishly; and to imagine that the Japanese would have treated us any better than our present rulers and would have given us our freedom on a platter would be rank madness. But, as I have said, these boys of the I. N. A. had no other alternative but to act as they did. The Burmese politician said the right word when he said that he wanted to be with the devil he knew than the devil he did not know. When Dr. Shahriar of Java was asked whether he would prefer Japanese rule to Dutch rule, his answer was that it was like asking him whether he would like to be bitten by a cobra or a viper. So far as we are concerned, we have no choice. As between the two sets of our soldiers I should like my Indian friends in this House to decide for themselves whether the boys who fought at El-Alamein, Tunisia and Cassino deserve any recognition at our hands. I am inclined to the view that Honourable gentlemen to my right when they asked for the quota of German reparations to be raised higher and took the Honourable the Commerce Member to task for having agreed to a lower one do realize that the services of these people are useful to the country and that they too are prepared to recognize the services rendered by those in British Imperial Forces to the same degree as the others with this difference that they will not bring us any reparations from the Japanese. While talking to the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the American Senate, I complained to him about the decision of his party to support the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine. He looked at me and burst out into laughter and said, "Is not the Presidential election over?"

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

Similarly, I am not surprised when I find friends talking of *ahimsa paramo dhârma*—non-violence—and words of that character and accepting the cult of violence and war. Can I ask them, Sir, one question: Are not the elections over? They are making use of the agony of these brothers who have suffered, and none knows when their sufferings will end. Can you imagine, Sir, members of the Indian National Congress group comparing 1942 with 1857? I cannot. I have been in the Congress in my days, but the present mentality, Sir, upsets me, for this reason that our opponents are beginning to suspect our *bona fides*. We either demand the release of these men on some sound fundamental ground or we are talking balderdash and making use of these boys for our electioneering purposes. That, Sir, is not nation-building, that is not asking the present Government to quit India. Such an attitude of mind exposes the weakness of our position and to that extent it fixes the British in this country for a time longer than they should be here.

So far I have taken the courage to talk a few words to my friends. But if the Members of the Government imagine that they can run away with this terrible mentality of theirs, if they think that they are doing something nice and sensible I prefer the charge against them that they acted as traitors to His Majesty the King Emperor by releasing the three for they had broken their Oath of Allegiance. Or if His Majesty approved of the action of releasing those three, then they must release every officer and every soldier who had anything to do, directly or indirectly, with the Indian National Army. My Honourable colleagues have been talking here in a spirit of unreality. They talk as if we are a free nation and our case should be judged according to the law applicable to nations which are free. No Sir. We cannot demand that. Till today we are in the position of beggars and until those who come after us are able to get the rights which they should have, I am prepared, Sir, to appeal to Members on Government Benches to release these officers and men, because that is the only way in which they can establish their honesty of purpose.

India is taking a turn, Sir, I hope for the better, and if they mean what they say then, Sir, I would again appeal to them to put my country in a state of peace, so that I may start on my new venture of nation-building in peace and comfort. If they go on creating these troubles, if they go on punishing some and letting off others then, they do not mean what they say. Sir, one of the most cruel aspects of their mentality is that the men of the first Indian National Army who joined the Japanese but whom the Japanese put back into concentration camps, are still there. It is the most astounding aspect of this mentality. They were either true to the Oath of Allegiance and opposed the Japanese or they were not. If they were not, the Japanese would not have put them in concentration camps. Viewed from every angle, Sir, I am of the opinion that the Government of India, and especially men in its Army Department, have committed, as many Members have said, a colossal blunder, and now courage and honestly demand that they should retrace their steps and release every man for that way lies wisdom.

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne** (Home Member): I do not propose to traverse the ground which has been covered by my friend the Joint Secretary of the War Department, nor does he need my help. I think the House is fortunate in having the affairs of this important Department entrusted to a Member so well equipped in every way to handle them. But I am concerned with the Indian National Army trials and releases in one aspect: their repercussions on public order. I believe many people share my view that the agitation on this subject which was launched so suddenly and conducted with so much passion was ill-considered and largely artificial. Amid noise and tumult the views of moderate and sensible people are apt to be unheard. But I believe the agitation has given offence and has caused bewilderment to many good soldiers and many good citizens. Of one thing I am sure, that the disturbances arising from it have given opportunities for lawless crime to elements which are always

ady to take advantage of disorder. A grave responsibility rests on the persons who have excited passion on this subject and in particular those who have amused or perverted the minds of two classes of people—soldiers of the Indian Army, and students. There has already been a heavy price to pay for this excitement, in dislocation of the daily life of cities and in loss of human lives. I hope I may be wrong but my fear is that there may be a heavier price to pay yet and the future Governments in India may inherit a legacy which will be painful and dangerous. A wise prophet has said: 'Those who have sown the wind shall reap the whirlwind.'

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** You have sown the wind!

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** I turn to the last, the less sensational part of this Resolution. I do so with regret because I feel that the House has come here to talk about the I. N. A. and to listen to speeches about the I. N. A., and I feel that for me to discuss the latter part of this Resolution will lower the high level of interest which the debate has so far maintained. But the Resolution, for which I am not responsible, calls for the immediate release not only of the officers and men of the I. N. A. but all other political prisoners under detention or imprisonment. And that is the part with which I have now to deal. The term political prisoners is one which is not known to law. I do not quarrel with it. I do not object to it. It is a convenient and reasonable term as long as it is reasonably interpreted. The Resolution covers two classes—the prisoners under detention or imprisonment—by which I understand prisoners who have been convicted of political crime. Well, Sir, I dealt recently with the subject of prisoners under detention and I have only one or two things to add to what I said then. The first thing I want to say, and I do not expect complete agreement from my friends on the other side of the House, is that in any real sense of the term political prisoner there is none now under detention. Those who are now detained in prison are kept there purely in the interests of public order, because their record warrants a belief that their release would be prejudicial to public order.

**An Honourable Member:** Why should it?

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** I did not expect you would agree with that. I gave the House figures the other day. My Honourable friend, the mover, so far as I understood him, questioned my figures. He said they were grossly under-stated and my recollection is that as an illustration of my under-statement, he said that there are 700 detenus in his province alone, the U. P. Well Sir, I do not know the source of his information, but I do not accept it and I do not believe it. My information is that on the first of January last, there were 44 persons under detention in the U. P., as against his 700. The total number of persons detained without trial under Ordinance III now in India is about 8,000, rather less than 9,000, and of those about 500 are persons who have been actively connected with movements aiming at terrorism and sabotage. The remainder, as I said, or practically all the rest, that is about 2,500, are Hurs. Well, Sir, champions of the Hurs have arisen recently in various places, in this House and elsewhere, but one thing I have observed about them is that they all live at a very safe distance from Sind, *e.g.*, in Bombay, Calcutta, or Allahabad.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban):** Or Delhi!

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** This problem is peculiarly a Sind problem. I repeat what I said the other day, that I will not be a party to censure of the Sind Government for the treatment they have given to the Hurs nor will I be a party to a resolution demanding the immediate release of the Hurs. The Sind Government recently put out a statement which shows that they have been and are considering the Hurs problem very seriously and I suggest that this House should refrain from passing a Resolution which in this part of it can only embarrass that Government.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Why should it embarrass the Government?

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** The second portion of this Resolution refers to persons convicted of political crime. Here, again, I must disclaim responsibility, as I did the other day in respect of detention, for crimes in areas which are outside the direct control of the Government of India, although in regard to those I propose presently to give the House some figures.

In the Chief Commissioners' Provinces, there are only four persons who have been convicted of political crime. All those are fairly recent convictions. None of them goes back to 1942 or 1943. The sentences imposed have been trivial: the longest of them is I think nine months and they are all due to expire in a month or two. I do not consider that there is any reason for releasing those persons earlier than may be possible under the ordinary remission rules which give remissions on account of good conduct.

Now, Sir, in the eleven Governors Provinces, by far the greatest number of the persons who have been convicted of crimes which can be regarded as political, are those connected with the disturbances of 1942 and for those the figure on the 1st January last was 2,852. On the 1st June 1943, the figure was 22,548. The fall has been from 22,548 in June 1943 to 2,852 last month. Well, Sir, there again in my view, any acceleration of release must be left to the Provincial Governments.

I should like, Sir, before I conclude to say a word on a remark which fell from my Honourable friend, the mover. I made a note of it at the time and I hope I have correctly recorded it. He said that it does not matter whether violence in these crimes was used or not. It follows logically from that that the political motive excuses any crime, even I suppose including murder. Well, Sir, that is an impossible claim for any Government to admit. Governments in India have not admitted it in the past. Even Congress Governments did not act on that principle, and I am confident that the Governments in India will not act on that principle in the future. The claim to my mind indicates a tendency to condone violence which in my observation has grown in recent months and in my belief it may prove a serious danger not only to public order in general, but to the peaceful and successful working in India of democratic institutions. Sir, that is all I have to say on this subject, and the House can now return to the more exhilarating topic of the I. N. A. trials. I must oppose the Resolution of Pandit Govind Malaviya as it stands.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What about all those people?

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** Sir, it seems to me that the debate on this Resolution will probably go over today and I may not be present when the debate may be resumed on the next occasion. Therefore, I think, Sir, I should say a few words and put my views before the House.

Sir, the substitute Resolution of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan is this:

"In view of the special circumstances under which most of the personnel of the Indian National Army joined it and in view of the policy laid down by the Government and the action taken by the Commander-in-Chief in dealing with the sentences passed by the Court Martial, this Assembly, recommends to the Governor General in Council to release all officers and men of the I. N. A. whether under detention or under trial."

Now, to that Resolution I understood that Mr. Mason has no objection but he wants his amendment to be incorporated. Have I understood him correctly?

**Mr. P. Mason:** Yes.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** His amendment is:

"That to the Resolution which the amendment proposed by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan seeks to substitute for the original resolution the words 'except those charged with brutality' be added at the end."

Now, I do not wish to go into the various matters that have been discussed on the floor of the House. Mr. Mason has given us a long lecture as regards the integrity and the reliability of the army and its necessity. On the other

hand, we have heard as to what is meant by patriotic duty and what a patriot should do. Sir, that is all academic. The reality is this: I think every intelligent man knows what a patriot should do. I think every intelligent man knows that the army of a country must be maintained on the basis of complete integrity, reliability and faithfulness. All this is very elementary. That is not the question now before the House. The question before the House is this: "What is the policy of the Government with regard to this subject of the Indian National Army"? I do not want, Sir, to say anything which will add more to the bitterness. I do not want to say anything which will hurt anybody, at any rate, I do not mean it. I do not want to go into extraneous matters. Let us confine ourselves and concentrate on this issue which is before the House: "What is the policy of the Government with regard to this matter"? You thought it right to hold these trials. Well, in my judgment, it was a blunder, to begin with. After going through the trials, you reduced the judgment and the sentences passed by the Court to travesty by releasing the men the very next moment. Why did you do it? Sir, it is quite obvious to me, at any rate. You did so, because you felt—and as it was partly given out by Mr. Mason—you felt not that it will help the settlement of the political problem, but you felt that there was such an upsurge of agitation and revolt throughout the country against your policy of having put them on trial, thereafter, because of that agitation—as I think one of the Honourable Members said—you funked it and you were stampeded into taking this action of remitting the entire sentence. Having done that, you find now that the agitation has cooled down. There were, I believe, in England—and I read it in the newspapers—very severe comments upon this farce. I do not say that you were wrong. I say you should never have put them on trial. But, having put them on trial, and having got the judgment after days and days of trial, you funked it. You reduced it to a farce and there was severe criticism and then another blunder. The first blunder was to start with the trials, the second blunder was to make a farce of a judicial judgment and sentences passed the very next moment.

**An Honourable Member:** Now this is the third.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** Quite, this is the third. Now you find that the agitation has subsided. You find now that you have put yourself in a ridiculous position and under cover of this plea "charged with brutality" as the exception . . . .

**Mr. P. Mason:** 30th November was the date on which we announced this policy.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** I know you leave a loophole always. I have not known, Sir, for the last thirty years, but have you ever known the British Government making a statement (whose children you are) without leaving a loophole? I have not. You can always find an excuse. How many statements, how many pledges and promises you have broken shamelessly. I know why you are doing it. You are now doing it because you want to find a scape goat and a victim. Rashid Ali is No. 1 victim but it is not going to stop there. You will get a few more victims. You propose perhaps to go through the same farce, going through a trial, then transportation for life or may be sentence of death (I do not know) and then you will come round and say, "Yes, yes. After all waging war against the King was bad". Did not Shah Nawas commit murder? Was he not held guilty of murder?

**Mr. P. Mason:** No, Sir. He was not guilty of murder.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** Of course he was. Abetment is the same as murder. Mr. Mason, you do not understand the legal language. I am sorry, your mind is more in the direction of military affairs. Abetment is the same offence. I can understand this legal language. But if you say that it was not his hand that actually killed the man and therefore in his case, he being an abettor, there were extenuating circumstances, in order not to give him as severe a punishment as the man who actually killed the man—I can understand that. But why was he released completely? That is what I want to know.

**Mr. P. Mason:** I explained it just now.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** I know you explained it. But does not the Honourable Member see how absurd it is to say—I am assuming now that Rashid is guilty of grievous hurt—that a man who commits grievous hurt or some injury—that that is not a lesser offence than abetment of murder? Cannot you see that? Commonsense will show you that if a man is guilty of grievous hurt, that is a lesser offence in every sense of the word than murder or abetment of murder. Shah Nawaz and others were released. Why is poor Rashid made the victim of your change of policy?

**Mr. P. Mason:** There has been no change.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** You have changed your policy. And not only this, Rashid—I am not talking now of Rashid—I am not concerned whether he is a Muslim or a Hindu or a Parsi—I am now considering your policy. Let me tell you that you are mistaken and let me advise you with all the earnestness I can command, stick to your first policy and your first thought. Release them all. No question. I am not satisfied—I have gone through the record and I am not satisfied that Rashid is guilty of brutality.

**Mr. P. Mason:** That is the point.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** Yes. I have spent many years of my life and I assure him that if you go through this carefully, as I have, he is no more guilty of brutality than Shah Nawaz and many others who were there at the time. Therefore, please consider it from this point of view. In order to prevent that fear, namely, that it looks farcical, you may victimise a few. Do not do it. Come out boldly and honestly. If you mean to secure goodwill, if you mean to create that feeling amongst every section of the people of this country, close this chapter completely. No more arguments, no more talk. I earnestly advise you in your interests, in our interests; and if you will yield once in your life to this advice of mine, believe me you do not know what you will be able to achieve. If you are really honest, if you are really sincere, if you mean what you say, believe me, do it at once without delay.

**Mr. P. Mason:** Will the Honourable Member assure me that he will not say next time that we were funking it?

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** No. I say that this is my case. You say it is not. I say this is my inference that you funk'd. Very well. If you will give me this assurance—and you must remember what I have said long long ago—do not forget it please—if you will give me this assurance that you are going to close this chapter, not only I shall not be justified in saying that you have funk'd but I will say that you have behaved as a civilised Government should behave and as a conquering Government should behave. I have said that long ago. When this question came before the public, I said, if you remember—and if you do not I will send you the press cuttings, but you must have it with you—I said that we have the deepest sympathy for these men, and I hope that the British Government will show the utmost clemency to them, the utmost clemency becoming a conqueror. You have won the war. I said that not only the men and the officers of the I. N. A. but those who have died on the battle-field, fighting for you heroically—look after their families and their children: those who have returned having won the battles, treat them properly. I do not want to go into this matter whether they fought for you or fought for me—they are human beings. Treat them as human beings; and, Mr. Griffiths, when the time comes, my army in Pakistan shall without doubt maintain all loyalty, whatever be the liability, and if any one did not do so, be he a soldier or be he an officer or a civilian, he will go the same way as William Joyce or John Améry.

**Col. Kumar Shri Himmatsinghji** (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I have heard with attention and great interest the remarks on the subject of the Indian National Army by some Honourable Members. I do not propose to start controversies. I stand here today as a representative of the Indian Armed Forces. I will therefore give you their side of the story.

Sir, when I became a member of this Assembly, I asked a political friend of mine for his advice, who informed me that the first thing to do as a Member of the Assembly is to lose one's conscience. Honourable Members who have a longer experience of this House than I have, can judge better than I can, whether that is true or not; as far as I am concerned, Sir, let me make it plain that I speak here today, not as a politician but as a humble soldier and on behalf of and for Indian soldiers. I shall disregard my friend's advice and say what I honestly believe, regardless of whether it pleases those on this side of the House or on that.

The motto of the soldier is to defend his country. The Indian soldier has always done this in the past. It is not the fault of the Indian soldier that the present Government is not hundred per cent. Indian. It is up to you gentlemen to get together, form a national Government and run this country as you think fit. I can assure you that the Indian armed forces will serve you as loyally as they are serving the present Government. Indeed, we will be justly proud to do so! I can tell you today with all the emphasis at my command that all officers and men of the Indian armed forces yearn for freedom for India as much as anyone in this House or in India. The soldiers, sailors and airmen do not understand why the representatives of the people cannot arrive at some solution—when they do arrive at such a solution, and we get the freedom for which we long so much, Sir, I can assure you that the Indian armed forces will defend that freedom with all their might.

Unfortunately a soldier has no say in the politics of his country. If he had, he would force upon the representatives of this House a non-stop session until all parties agreed upon a common formula for freedom for all!

I may humbly point out to the Honourable Members that by branding the Indian Army as mercenaries, no useful purpose will be served. Just think of these people whom you call mercenaries. If they fight heroically and win world wide fame for their courage, devotion to duty and endurance, as they have done during this war, the last war and all wars in the past, they are called by some as mercenaries. If on the other hand they were to indulge in activities which popular fancy urged them to do, they would be labelled by the Government of the day as "traitors". These men are in a difficult position. Be just to them. Don't judge them harshly. Give them a chance. Wait until you form a national Government. Then try the same mercenaries. If they fail you, gentlemen, I would be prepared to face a trial for having misled you. Therefore I appeal to you to give the Indian soldier his share of praise. He has done well in this war. He has brought military fame to India. Whatever the political implications of his role in this war, he has proved to the world that when India is free, her freedom will be in the safest hands, for no nation could ask for a better army to defend its liberty.

It is said that the object of the I. N. A. was the liberation of India. With that object every Indian agrees, there can be no question of that, and as an Indian, I can understand why many of my countrymen applaud them and treat them as heroes. After all, Sir, all subject nations are bound to be stirred at the deeds of a force trying to liberate its country from a foreign rule. It is therefore not difficult to understand why Indians feel visibly moved when they hear of a Provisional Indian Government under an Indian President the aim of which was liberation of India. But perhaps it would not be out of place for me to mention here what my own reactions were during the war regarding the credentials of the Japanese, who after all were in a position to destroy the I.N.A. at will. It is therefore my duty to go deeper into this question. I have said before that I shall speak my mind without fear on the floor of this House. I therefore say that the reliance the I. N. A. placed in the Japanese promises was not justified. To prove my point I may be forgiven if I claim to know about the Japanese more than any one in this House, as over 20 years ago I had the experience of serving in the Japanese Army as an Exchange Officer. Again at the outbreak of the war I was interned by the Japanese for nearly 10 months.

[Col. Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji]

During this internment, at a cost of one eye, I got to know the Japanese and their brutal methods and their ambitions. Let me relate Japanese conception of prisoners of war. It may not be generally known that the Japanese refused to sign the Geneva conventions regarding the treatment of prisoners; because in their view, it was a disgrace for a soldier to become a prisoner and that he does not deserve living. If the Japs had won this war and occupied India, I know that they would never have left this country until another war had thrown them out. They would have liquidated all those who mattered in the I.N.A. Freedom would never have descended upon India as long as the Rising Sun's sway had reigned supreme in this land of ours!

Talking of the I.N.A. problem I might assure the House that in our present Commander-in-Chief we have today the most sympathetic Commander in the world. He has done more for the Indian army than anyone today or in the past. Every Indian officer and other rank is proud to serve under this great man. These are no words of flattery. I have never traded on this before and having left the Army I certainly don't need to indulge in it now. I know that I am voicing the sentiments of every single Indian in the army, navy and Air Force of India today. We have all become so used to the present Commander-in-Chief's impartial presence above us that we dread at the thought that he will one day have to leave us. If my voice can go further than this House, then let me say this. I hope this Commander-in-Chief stays with us as long as possible. I wish I could explain what I mean. But I would merely say that only he will be able to fulfil our aspirations and ambitions of complete Indianization!

I therefore appeal to the House to select a representative delegation of the Honourable Members of this House who should approach the highest military authorities on the subject of I.N.A. This may lead to a solution of this very delicate problem. This is vital now, of all the times, when we are on the thresh-hold of constitutional changes leading to our freedom.

I now wish to draw attention of the War Department to a few points:

(a) During my visits to the Indian troops on the various fronts I was asked over and over again by the Indian soldiers that they were fighting the same enemy by the side of the Allies, that he the Indian soldier was fighting as well, if not better than most of them, then why is it that his pay, allowance, and the general treatment when overseas are much lower than the troops of the British Commonwealth or of the other Allies. They also pointed out that the troops of Greece, Poland and Czechs most of whom even did not take part in fighting were paid at the same rate as a British soldier and by the British Government. I more than once put the same question to the British Generals in Command and in fairness to them everyone agreed that when an Indian soldier is employed overseas that he should be paid on the British rates of pay.

(b) As regards Resettlement and Welfare; both Indian officers and men with whom I have come in touch with are anxious and worried about their future and I would suggest that all possible ways and means must be found to look after Resettlement of these brave Indian soldiers.

**Mr. Deputy President:** Does the Honourable Member wish to continue his speech for some time?

**Col. Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji:** I will take another ten minutes.

**Mr. Deputy President:** Then the Honourable Member can continue his speech on the next day for Resolutions.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 12th February, 1946.