

# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

## Official Report

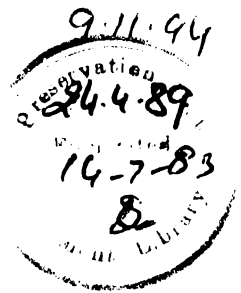
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Volume I, 1946

( 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 :*

MR. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

MR. P. J. GRIFFITHS, M.L.A.

*Secretary :*

MR. M. N. KAUL, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

*Assistants of the Secretary :*

MR. M. V. H. COLLINS, M.B.E.

MR. A. J. M. ATKINSON.

MR. S. DAS.

*Marshal ;*

CAPTAIN HAJI SARDAR NUB AHMED KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

*Committee on Petitions :*

SIR MUHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN, M.L.A. (*Chairman*)

SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

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

Friday, 8th 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.

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

#### BRITISH POLICY *re* PALESTINE

95. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have informed the British Government about the strong feeling prevailing in this country against the British policy regarding Palestine and also as to how the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League and other political organisations have extended support to the Palestine Day celebrated in November, 1945, all over India as a protest against the British policy;

(b) if so, the reply of the British Government; and

(c) if not, why not?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) The Government of India have not failed to keep His Majesty's Government apprised of Indian opinion on the Palestine problem.

(b) Such informatory communications do not call for a specific reply.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member please state whether this matter was discussed in the Executive Council before His Majesty's Government was apprised of Indian opinion?

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know which Department of the Government of India forwarded the communication to His Majesty's Government—is it the Commonwealth Relations Department or the External Affairs Department?

Mr. H. Weightman: The External Affairs Department.

#### PETROL RATIONING

96. \*Mr. O. P. Lawson: (a) Will the Honourable the War Transport Member be pleased to state whether it is intended to discontinue the rationing of petrol in the near future, or whether he can give any indication as to how long such rationing is to last?

(b) In the event of the continuance of petrol rationing, will he be pleased to indicate whether any steps are contemplated to co-ordinate the system under which supplementary petrol rations are issued so that the present inequalities between provinces in this respect may be removed?

(c) In the event it is found necessary to maintain petrol rationing in order to conserve dollar exchange, do Government propose to undertake to examine the position of petrol supply as compared with the supply of other products from outside the sterling area so that this need is considered in its proper perspective?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that the shortage of petrol for civil consumption is retarding the resumption of peace-time activities in commerce and industry as opposed to war production and does he propose to review the whole question in the light of the altered circumstances?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The intention is to discontinue Petrol rationing as soon as the supply position permits, but it is not possible to give any indication at present as to how much longer rationing will have to be continued.

(b) The grant of supplementary petrol rations to individual consumers is left to the discretion of the local rationing authorities who fix the ration according to the essential requirements of each applicant. Some variation in scales cannot be avoided but there does not appear to be any necessity for issuing any further instructions.

(c) Yes.

(d) I am aware of the disadvantages resulting from the existing shortage of petrol. The desirability of improving the supply position has already been strongly represented to His Majesty's Government.

**Mr. O. P. Lawson:** With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, is he aware that there is a very considerable difference between Provinces in the granting of supplementary rations—a difference amounting to 50 or 100 per cent?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** There is of course a certain difference, because supplementary rations are issued for essential purposes and essential purposes vary in different Provinces. Also, of course, we cannot eliminate the human factor. One Officer is perhaps more generous than another but I have examined the figures in the past and there did not appear to be any unreasonable deviations.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know whether the military use of petrol has been considerably reduced and also whether they have any idea as to when Government expect more petrol from Burma?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative: it has been reduced. As to the second part of the question, when we expect further supplies, that question I cannot answer.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it not a fact that the petrol which is supplied to the military, generally goes into the black market and is not used by the military?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I do not think so. There is an occasional leakage in anything.

**Mr. O. P. Lawson:** With reference to his reply to part (b) of my question, will the Honourable Member please state whether any attempt is made to equate the actual consumption of petrol in the Provinces to the number of cars registered in those Provinces?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The answer is in the affirmative.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** With reference to the Honourable Member's reference to the 'human' factor, may I ask if it is not a fact that many persons in dire need have been denied petrol in a most 'inhuman' way, and there have been district magistrates who have liberally given supplementary coupons to their favourites in a most 'sub-human' manner?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir. I am not aware of it.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I know whether it is a fact that American producers of petrol in the Near East made an offer to the Government of India of increased quantities in order to enable them to raise the basic ration and that the Government of India refused such an offer?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I am not in a position to answer that question. It is not only a question of available supplies but also of available tankers.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saxena:** With reference to part (d) of the question, is the Honourable Member aware that in the United Provinces the election campaign is being handicapped for want of sufficient petrol? Only 100 gallons are supplied to each candidate. . . .

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir. The Honourable Member himself applied for an extra allowance and got it.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** That was about Central Assembly elections. With reference to the Provincial Assembly elections, is the Honourable Member aware that a candidate in U. P. is allowed only 100 gallons whereas in the Punjab 1,000 or 1,200 gallons per candidate is allowed?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I do not think that the Honourable Member's figures are correct.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Honourable Member make an enquiry?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes, I will.

**Sreejot Rohini Kumar Choudhuri:** Is it a fact that there is a fairly large reserve with the oil company at Digboi and that the company is asking for permission to dispose of that quantity?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I am not aware of that fact. There may be transport difficulties.

#### PETROL CONTROL

**97. \*Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please mention the reasons for not giving relief to Civilian population by increasing basic ration of petrol?

(b) Will he please state definitely by what time he will be able to lift the control over the supply of petrol?

(c) What are the difficulties on account of which the control is not removed? What steps are Government taking to overcome these difficulties?

(d) Is it not a fact that control has been lifted in some other belligerent countries?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Some relief has already been given to Civil car and motor cycle owners by the doubling in August last of the basic petrol ration.

(b) It is not possible to give any indication at present of the date when it will be possible to withdraw petrol rationing.

(c) The reasons why petrol rationing cannot at present be further relaxed or withdrawn have been fully explained in the Press Communique issued in the first week of January 1946. Urgent references have been made to His Majesty's Government pressing for an increase in the supply of petrol allowed for Civil consumption in India.

(d) Government have no information on this point.

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT IN NORTH KANARA DISTRICT

**98. \*Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that North Kanara District is lacking in proper and sufficient means of communication and transport? If so, what do Government propose to do to alleviate the consequent inconvenience to the general public?

(b) Do Government propose to introduce Railway communication in the District in the immediate future as a measure of post-war reconstruction? If so, when and to what extent?

(c) Will Bhatkal, an important centre in the District, be linked up with the proposed Railway line? If so, when? if not, why not?

(d) Are Government aware that Bhatkal is isolated and cut off from the other parts of the District and the country due to unbridged big rivers? If so, what do Government propose to do in the matter?

(e) Do the Government of India propose to ask the Government of Bombay to look into the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) It is difficult to determine without a full survey the means of communication and transport that would be sufficient for any given area. As regards requirements of railways it is proposed to survey portions of the North Kanara district to determine whether there is sufficient justification for the construction of a railway line from Alnawar to Karwar. The requirements of roads will be covered by the Provincial Government's five year road development plan.

(b) The Railway construction in the district would depend upon the result of the survey referred to in the answer to part (a) of the question.

(c) It is not proposed at present to construct a new railway line leading to Bhatkal.

(d) Government have no precise information as to the present condition of roads and existence of bridges leading to Bhatkal. It is understood, however, that the Government of Bombay have included in their post-war road plan the development of a provincial Highway north from Bhatkal to link up with the provincial Highway system. This would in all probability connect with any new railway in the district if one were built but until the railway survey has been completed it is not possible to suggest where the connection would be.

(e) It is understood that the Government of Bombay have already studied this matter in the course of the preparation of the road development plan.

#### KARACHI COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS STAFF

**99. \*Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the P. and T. staff stationed at Karachi was in receipt of a local compensatory allowance prior to the year 1939?

(b) Is it a fact that this allowance was withdrawn in the year in which the world war II broke out, viz., in 1939?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Government of Sind have sanctioned the Karachi compensatory allowance at the increased rates with retrospective effect from the 1st November, 1944, considering the then existing rates of the Karachi compensatory allowance inadequate to meet the higher cost of living?

(d) Is it a fact that the P. and T. staff stationed at Karachi have pressed a unanimous demand at their mass meeting and submitted petitions for the grant of the Karachi compensatory allowance at the same rates and conditions as sanctioned by the Government of Sind?

(e) Is it a fact that the Central Government have rejected this demand without assigning any reasons?

**Sir Gurnath Bewoor:** (a) Yes.

(b) Orders were issued in December 1938 withdrawing the allowance from 1st January 1939.

(c) Government are aware of the Sind Government orders but not of the reasons which are being ascertained.

(d) Yes.

(e) The demand was rejected because Government considered that the comparatively high cost of living in Karachi was compensated by the higher scale of pay of P. & T. staff in Karachi and the dearness allowance and other allowances drawn by the P. & T. staff.

#### KARACHI COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS STAFF

**100. \*Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Railway employees stationed at Karachi get the following apart from salary: (i) Port allowance, (ii) House rent, and (iii) Food stuff on concessional rates?

(b) Is it a fact that the employees of the Incometax Department are granted a local allowance?

(c) Why has this allowance been denied to the P. and T. staff, when the local Government have considered it necessary to sanction the Karachi compensatory allowance at increased rates for their employees to meet the higher cost of living?

(d) Was the grant of this allowance to the P. and T. staff at Karachi strongly recommended by the head of the Circle, i.e., the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Karachi, and the Director General P. and T., New Delhi? If so, on what principle was this demand of the P. and T. staff rejected?

(e) Are Government aware of the resentment and discontentment amongst the staff at Karachi due to the rejection of their just and equitable demand?

(f) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the editorials of the *Daily Gazette* and *Karachi Daily*, dated the 2nd and 10th December, 1945, respectively and do Government propose to sanction this allowance for the P. and T. staff stationed at Karachi? If not, why not?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a) (i) No. (ii) and (iii). Yes, subject to certain conditions.

(b) Yes.

(c) It has been decided to restore with effect from 1st April 1945; the compensatory allowance which was withdrawn from 1st January 1939.

(d) to (f). In view of the answer to (c), these do not arise but I may add that in view of recent representations, the matter is being further considered.

#### ORDERS PLACED OUTSIDE INDIA FOR GOODS OBTAINABLE IN INDIA

101. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) What steps has the Honourable the Industries and Supplies Member taken to see that no orders of any class of goods required by (i) Railways, (ii) War Department, (iii) other Departments of the Central Government, and (iv) Provincial Governments are sent out of India for articles which were during the war manufactured in India and supplied locally?

(b) Is it a fact that a circular has gone round to Railways asking them not to place any more orders in India, but to collect the orders for being sent to the United Kingdom?

(c) Is it a fact that a special officer has been appointed, who has already sent out orders to the United Kingdom for items, which were manufactured or purchased in India during the period of the war for the Railways?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) The procurement of stores required by Department of the Central Government is arranged by the Industries and Supplies Department except in the case of Food and some specialized items. Purchasing Officers are aware of Government's policy of making the greatest possible use of indigenous productions, and particularly of those industries which have, under the influence of war needs, achieved production conforming to acceptable standards and specifications.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. A Controller of imported Railway Stores was appointed in 1943, and he has been successful in diverting to indigenous sources of supply requirements which might otherwise have been placed abroad.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have Government received any representations from industries established during the war in India and which supplied goods to the Government during the war that the orders had been suddenly discontinued? Is it a fact that the orders have been suddenly discontinued?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No, Sir. We have received applications that the Industries and Supplies Department should support cases for protection against foreign competition if it restarts. As regards cancellation of orders, orders for unserviceable stores which would be of no value in peace time were cancelled.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have Government made it clear to their Purchasing Officers, to the officers in the Honourable Member's Department, that with

reference to the price, the fact that foreign goods may be coming a little cheaper should not be allowed to interfere with the placing of these orders with Indian firms?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Yes, Sir. That is well known to all officers of the Purchase Branch.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** In view of the reply given to part (b) of the question, may I know whether there is not a cloth famine in the country and is it not desirable that foreign cloth should be imported from England and other parts of the world?

**Mr. President:** What is the information that the Honourable Member wants?

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** I want to know, in view of the cloth famine in the country, why should it not be possible to import some cloth from foreign countries?

(No answer was given.)

#### PREFERENCE FOR GOODS MADE IN INDIA

**102. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Industries and Supplies Member please state what steps have been taken for the co-ordination of the Commerce, Planning, Supply, Railways, War and the Industries Departments so far as orders for Government requirements are concerned to be placed in India?

(b) Have definite instructions been given that goods made in India will receive preference? If so, when were they given?

(c) Is it one of the duties of the Co-ordinating Department which has been set up? If so, what steps have been taken by them to see that goods useful for the purpose manufactured in this country are taken in the first instance and orders are placed abroad only for the surplus required, if any?

(d) Will a statement of the orders placed outside India since, the 1st of January, 1945, for the requirements of (i) Railways, (ii) War Department, (iii) other Departments of the Government of India, and (iv) Provincial Governments, be placed on the table with reference to materials and products, which were secured in India during the period of the war?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) With certain exceptions, such as food and some specialized items, the procurement of stores for the Central Government has been made the responsibility of the Department of Industries and Supplies, which will provide the necessary co-ordination.

(b) Yes. Definite instructions to that effect were laid down in 1929 in a Resolution of the Department of Industries and Labour, No. S-217, dated 12th December 1929. This policy was reiterated in a Press Note, dated the 14th August 1945, an extract of which is laid on the table.

(c) No, Sir. The duty, as stated in answer to part (a) of the question, devolves on the Department of Industries and Supplies. As regards the second part of the question, all Officers engaged on procurement duty are aware of the policy stated in (b) above and are required to conform to it in practice.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

*Extract from Press Note, dated the 14th August 1945.*

For the procurement of stores to meet post-war Government requirements, the policy of Government is to make the greatest possible use of indigenous production, and particularly of those industries which have, under the influence of war needs, achieved production conforming to acceptable standards and specifications. While commodities paid for from the public purse must in general be the best that can be produced at the price, it is the aim of Government to establish continuity of procurement from industries which maintain a consistent performance, and which pay attention to new modifications and developments. To this end Government will assist with technologists and training, where welcomed, or in procuring technical knowledge and assistance.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** With regard to part (b) and the Resolution of 1929 referred to in the reply, is it not a fact that in the war emergency many of these old orders and resolutions were suspended and the operation of many of them was cut short, and the restoration is not yet complete because the Stores Department has not yet been instituted?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** It is a fact that goods that could not be obtained from Indian sources, because they were engaged in other forms of production during the war, and which were urgently required for the defence of the country, were obtained from abroad. Since the war closed, the orders of 1929 have been immediately reimposed and nothing which can be obtained in India according to the orders of 1929 will be obtained from abroad.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the serious apprehensions amongst factory owners and industrialists in India, may I ask the Honourable Member to consider whether a press note giving Government's considered views on this point and reviving all the assurances given to Indian goods in the past cannot now be issued?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I shall consider the issue of a more comprehensive press note.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that there has been much less expansion of the currency in England than in India, and naturally the level of prices in England is much lower than that prevailing in India, will Government consider the advisability of increasing the percentage of preference that they had decided upon to give for Indian purchases in India?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I have not followed the question. I would reiterate that the intention of Government is to place as much of any orders required by India on Indian sources.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know with respect to purchases made outside India, whether attempts are made to purchase them in the cheapest market?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Yes.

#### SURPLUS GOVERNMENT MATERIAL FOR DISPOSAL

**103. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Industries and Supplies Member please state whether any estimates has been made of the material for disposal belonging to the Government of India? If so, what is the figure?

(b) What steps have Government taken in order to achieve quick disposal so as to realise a fair price to Government and yet prevent the goods going into the hands of middlemen?

(c) What precautions have Government taken in order to see that the disposal by Government of the surplus will not interfere with, and affect adversely, the products of industries in India engaged in like production?

(d) Is it a fact that the material belonging to the U.S.A. Government is being disposed of independently by a separate organization?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Not yet, Sir. The second part of the question does not arise.

(b) Government have taken the following steps:

(i) A Disposals Board was constituted and has laid down the principles of disposal. The Board decides questions of policy referred to it. It is the policy that sales shall as far as possible be to buyers who will be actual consumers of the material. Where possible, normal trade channels will be used.

(ii) A Central Advisory Committee has been formed for Headquarters, and Regional Advisory Committees have been constituted for Bombay and Calcutta areas, on which consumers and producers' interests are represented.

(iii) A Directorate General of Disposals has been established at New Delhi, and Regional Commissioners have been appointed at Calcutta, Bombay, Cawnpore and Lahore, with Branch Offices at Karachi, Madras and Cochin.



(iv) Provincial and State Governments have designated their own officers to contact the Disposals Organization so as to facilitate speedy transactions between the Disposals Organisation, and Provincial and State Governments.

(c) Central and Regional Advisory Committees, and Technical Advisory Panels for major categories of stores will be constituted to ensure an orderly rate of release in conformity with public needs, and also with regard to indigenous production.

(d) No, Sir. Before 24th December 1945, a small proportion of the U.S. Army surpluses was sold by the U. S. Foreign Liquidation Commission in accordance with an agreement between the Governments of U.S.A. and India. On December 24th, 1945 the Government of India entered into a further agreement whereby they will dispose of all U.S. Government surplus property through the Director General of Disposals.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is the Honourable Member in a position to tell this House now what progress has been made with regard to negotiations as to price and the date of the taking over of the U.S.A. surpluses?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No, Sir; I am afraid I am not in a position to make a statement yet.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** May I know with reference to the establishment of these central and regional advisory committees whether the members were nominated by the Government and what process was gone through for bringing them in?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** They were invited and asked if they would join.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** On whose advice?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Selections were made by the Honourable Supply Member.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Nominations, more or less—that is what I understand them to be?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Yes.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** When will the Honourable Member inform this House as to the exact position with regard to the taking over of U.S.A. surpluses, how much money will be involved, what is the price which we have paid over the original figure fixed by the U.S.A. administration—when will he be in a position to give information to this House on the subject?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I am not in a position to say yet. The Honourable Member will realise that merely inventorying the surpluses is by itself a very formidable task, as the surpluses are spread over various areas. On the question of value, I think the Honourable Member will realise that there are very many factors involved—location, condition, age, and usefulness of the stores concerned: these matters are now being investigated, and I hope at a later date to be able to give the Honourable Member the information he wants.

#### LOCOMOTIVES AND WAGONS IMPORTED

**104. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state how many locomotives and wagons, separately, have been imported into India being (i) material sent out, returned from Europe, and (ii) new material purchased?

(b) What is the number of military specials still moving in the country every day as compared with the number this time, last year and the year before?

(c) Will Government make a statement indicating the extent to which the requirements of military transport have been reduced after the stoppage of hostilities?

(d) What are the reasons for the continued overcrowding in passenger and mail trains and the stoppage of the booking of goods between various important

centres for prolonged periods and other indications of congestion still prevailing three months after the stoppage of hostilities?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take in order to mitigate the hardship to the civil population?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) No locomotives or wagons were sent from Indian Railways to Europe. I lay on the table a statement of the rolling stock sent to the Mid-Eastern Theatre of War and returned to India and of the rolling stock imported into India from 1st April 1939, to January 15th, 1946.

(b) The latest figures available are for December 1945. In that month the total number of Military Specials run was 654, or an average of 21 per day. The corresponding figures for December 1944, are a total of 911 trains, averaging 29 per day, and for December 1943, a total of 802, averaging 26 per day.

(c) Movements of Military Personnel in connection with embarkation, internal demobilization and repatriation have kept up the transport demands on Railways; movements of stores by Military specials, and by ordinary trains have decreased but it is not possible at present to give an exact indication of the quantum of reduction.

(d) The chief reason is the inability of Railways to resume passenger services on the pre-war level owing to the shortage of stock, much of which is still at the disposal of the War Department. As regards goods traffic, the revival of trade and industry, the seasonal movement of crops, heavy special movements of food-stuffs to deficit areas, and difficulties of coal supply, arising mainly from an epidemic of sickness amongst running staff on the E. I. Railway, which have all had their repercussions on the wagon supply position, are responsible for periodical restrictions in goods booking of low priority. Despite this, essential traffic has been moving satisfactorily.

(e) Every endeavour is being made by Railways, within the limits of their power and stock resources to restore as many as possible of the public passenger services curtailed during the war. Up to the 1st January 1946, 665 trains had been re-introduced or extended representing an increase of 39,317 train miles per day.

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*Statement*

**I. Rolling stock returned to India from the Mid-Eastern Theatre of War :**

42 M.G. Locomotives.  
254 B.G. Wagons.  
1,725 M.G. Wagons.

**II. Rolling stock imported into India from 1st April, 1939 to 15th January 1946 :**

763 B.G. Locomotives.  
554 M.G. Locomotives (including 515 for War Deptt. and SEAC).  
7,621 General Service B. G. wagons.  
100 Special type B.G. wagons.  
9,040 General Service M.G. wagons (including 9,000 for War Deptt. & SEAC).  
2,615 Special type M.G. wagons (all for War Deptt. and SEAC).

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the War Transport Member—and I do not see why he should be still continued to be called the War Transport Member—say whether representations have been made to the military authorities that the emergency having stopped the number of war specials may now be reduced and whatever work the military may have to do may now be done with a smaller number of trains, so that the civil population may get more accommodation?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have explained, Sir, in my answer to part (c) that there is still a great deal of military movement to be done.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** With regard to the distress of industries producing goods for the consumption of civil population, such as, the rolling mills, paper mills and the textile mills, whose output is wanted by the general public, will not Government make a further effort to see that the necessary wagon supply is

forthcoming by curtailing the movement of military goods from one place to another, which do not appear to be very urgent now?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir. As I have explained, the movement of military goods has been very considerably decreased.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Honourable Member consider the question of discontinuing the use of saloons for the trips of Honourable Members here and there?

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

#### TRANSPORT PRIORITY

105. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state whether the system of transport priority is still operating after the stoppage of hostilities, and whether the basis, on which it operates, is the same as during the war period?

(b) On what basis are the requirements for transport of industries, which are now engaged in supplying to the civil population, met in the matter of (i) coal, (ii) raw material, and (iii) finished goods?

(c) Is it a fact that representations have been made to Government to offer larger facilities for transport to industries, which have switched on from Government work to private work? If so, what steps are being taken to mitigate the hardship?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The system of transport priority is still operating. The basis upon which it operates was revised in September, 1945, to suit the new conditions created by the cessation of hostilities.

(b) Coal for all purposes, including the requirements of industries, is moved under the highest priority except for emergency movements under priority orders to ensure the success of civil or military operations to deal with an emergency. The basis upon which the requirements of industries for transport of raw material and finished goods are met, is that the maintenance or development of essential industrial production takes precedence over the maintenance or development of transportation and communication services, the movements of foodstuffs and textiles, and movements in connection with urgent civil and military projects.

(c) The general principle is that priority for rail transport is granted in consideration only of the essentiality of movements. Pending, however, the preparation of a list of key industries to which special assistance may be necessary, no change has been made in the system of granting priority to firms which had hitherto been employed on the execution of war contracts and who are now switching over to the production of goods for civil consumption.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** In view of the assurance given to industries which were engaged on war production that when they went over from war orders to the production of civilian goods the same facilities will be continued to them for the transport of raw materials, semi-finished products, finished products and coal, will the Honourable Member institute an inquiry whether these assurances have been carried out or whether they have not been carried out, because I can tell him that they have not been carried out?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** If the Honourable Member will give me some information, I will look into it, but that is the general position.

#### REFUSAL OF PASSPORT TO PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU FOR INDONESIA

106. **\*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary for External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) why Government have refused to grant a passport to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to go to Indonesia;

(b) whether their refusal was due to their own decision, or whether it was taken after consulting the British Government or on the orders of the British Government; and

(c) what attitude was taken by the Secretary of State for India in refusing a passport to Panditji?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** (a) The refusal to afford facilities for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to visit Indonesia was made with the agreement of the Supreme Allied Commander in view of the disturbed conditions prevailing there, which made undesirable the presence of any one not engaged in a task of military necessity.

(b) The decision was taken by the Government of India to whom Pandit Nehru's application was addressed.

(c) Does not arise.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The question here is whether they have consulted the British Government in regard to this matter?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** No, Sir,

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is the Honourable Member satisfied that the reasons for refusing this passport were adequate?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** Yes, Sir.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Did he consult the Government of the Republic in Indonesia regarding the desirability of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru going there? Is it not a fact that the President of the Republic wanted the assistance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** I am not sure that there is an internationally recognised Republic yet.

#### BHATKAL BUNDER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

**107. \*Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state whether Government are aware that a private Company styled as 'Bhatkal Bunder Construction Company' has been or is being formed and floated to construct a ship building yard to develop the port at Bhatkal? If so, what is the policy of the Government towards the proposed Company and the scheme?

(b) Are Government aware of the feeling of the local public about the proposed scheme?

(c) Has any representation been received by Government from or on behalf of the proposed Company? If so, of what nature, and how do Government propose to deal with it?

(d) Do Government propose to consult the local public opinion in the matter? If so, when and how?

(e) Had the Government of India at any time received from the Government of the Maharaja of Mysore, any representation about the construction and development of the port at Bhatkal, District North Kanara, Bombay Presidency? What was the Government's attitude towards the said Representation, if any?

(f) Was His Majesty's Government ever approached in the matter by the Mysore Government through the Government of India? If so, when and with what result?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (c). In July 1944, the gentleman who is now the Managing Director of the Bhatkal Bunder Construction Co., Ltd., applied for permission to float a public joint stock company to be known as the "Karnataka Ship Building and Transport Co., Ltd." for the construction of a ship building yard and a dock yard at the port of Bhatkal in the Province of Bombay. After consulting the Provincial Government the Government of India decided to refuse the application.

(b) No.

(d) As Bhatkal is a minor port, it is for the Provincial Government to consult local public opinion in the matter if they think fit.

(e) Yes. Such representations have been received from time to time but no positive decisions have been come to as the necessary measure of agreement could not be reached on the various issues involved.

(f) No, but Sir Edwin Montagu, the Secretary of State for India, was personally approached in the year 1919 by Sir Albion Banerji, Dewan of Mysore.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** With regard to the answer to part (a) of the question, will the Honourable Member explain the reasons for refusal to this Company?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Well, Sir, the reasons were varied. One of them was, I think, that in the opinion of the Provincial Government the development of the port would have to be undertaken by official action. Another thing is that a ship-building panel has been set up which is examining the whole question of ship-building in India by official or non-official action and, I presume, they thought it advisable to wait for the results of that panel.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Government re-consider the question and give similar facilities to this Company as were given to the Scindia Steam Navigation Company for building a ship-building yard at the Vizagapatam port?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Well, Sir, if the Company applies for its application to be re-considered, it will doubtless be re-considered.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** The Honourable Member said in reply to part (a) of the question that the Government will consider the question of developing this port officially and, if it is not so possible, then through non-official sources. May I ask the War Transport Member if he will re-consider the development of this port through official sources?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** It is one of the subjects which will come under examination by the Ports Technical Committee which has been appointed to look into the question of developing minor ports on the east coast of India.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Is not the appointment of this Committee just an excuse to delay matters?

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

#### RESTORATION OF NILAMBUR-SHORANPUR LINE

**108. \*Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the restoration of the Nilambur-Shoranpur Line in South India, the dismantling of which was a subject matter of an adjournment motion on the 25th November, 1940, is under consideration;

(b) when the matter is to be taken up; and

(c) whether he proposes to consult a committee of representative people in Malabar to lay down the Line in such a manner that it may prove remunerative to Government and useful to the people?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The restoration of the Nilambur-Shoranpur line has been considered in consultation with the Provincial Government.

(b) It has been decided not to restore this line.

(c) Does not arise.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** May I just know the reason for deciding not to restore this line if it is not very long?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I understand that this was the subject of an adjournment motion in 1940 when the line was lifted. It was moved by the Honourable Member and the situation was clearly set out then. The line was originally put in for strategic purposes arising out of the Moplah rebellion. It has never proved a remunerative line. The area is well served by roads and it is not thought by the Provincial Government in consultation with the Railway Board to be a sound proposition to restore the line.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Was it placed before the Standing Finance Committee for examination?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I should require notice of the question.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** If I remember aright, on that adjournment motion there was a sort of promise that this line would be restored. I was taken aback by the reply given by the Honourable Member and I would like him to look it up. I would also ask him to consider the suggestion made in part (c) of the question.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Well, Sir, I have the debate here and I looked at it before coming to the House. I think the only promise given at that time was that the matter will be discussed with the Provincial Government. It has been discussed with the Provincial Government, who do not think that the replacement of the line was necessary or desirable. I will, however, look into the matter again.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** In part (c) there is a suggestion thrown out that the railway people should consult a Committee of the representatives of the people. I suggest that the Honourable Member should re-consider the matter and see whether this will be helpful?

**Mr. President:** Order, Order: no suggestions for action.

#### DOUBLING OF RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN MUTTRA AND DELHI

**109. \*Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doubling of the Railway line between Muttra and Delhi is under consideration; and

(b) whether he proposes to have this project examined in view of the great congestion of traffic on this section?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The doubling of this section is not included in present development plans.

(b) It is expected that traffic on this section will decline to the pre-war level and that the congestion which now exists will disappear. There is, therefore, no justification for doubling the line at present, but the situation will be watched.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** Will the Honourable Member please say on what his knowledge is based when he says that there was no congestion even on pre-war level, because our experience is just the opposite?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** That is not my information. The capacity of the line is 15 trains per day each way. The number of trains passing today is about 12.5 on an average each way and therefore there appears to be a margin even in today's circumstances, and as regards doubling, before doubling were considered, the proper action would be to put in additional crossing stations.

#### RECRUITMENT OF SUBORDINATE STAFF ON B. B. & C. I. AND SOUTH INDIA RAILWAYS

**110. \*Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) how recruitment of staff (subordinate) drawing over Rs. 100 *per mensem* on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India, and South India Railways is made, and whether there are any Selection Boards for the purpose;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether they are part time or whole time officers; and whether they consider promotions or appointments purely on merit;

(c) whether there are different scales of pay for the Anglo-Indians and Indians for the same post, or whether there are in effect grades to which only Anglo-Indians are, as a rule, promoted and not Indians;

(d) whether any kind of preference is shown to any class of persons in recruitment to subordinate posts or gazetted posts; and, if so, what, and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any preference that may be shown to children or relatives of persons in the Railway service is shown only to the Anglo-Indians or the Parsis; and

(f) the number of persons recruited by promotion or direct appointment during the year 1945 on these two Railways, and how many of them were (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims, and (iii) Anglo-Indians and others, for posts drawing Rs. 100 per mensem and over?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The recruitment and promotion of subordinate staff on Indian Government Railways, including the B. B. & C. I. and S. I. Railways, is made in accordance with the rules contained in Appendices II and II-A to the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. These rules provide for the constitution of selection boards in the cases mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(b) and (d). Selection boards consist of wholtime officers and selections are made on merit, due regard being paid, in the case of direct recruitment, to Rules 76 and 77 of the rules in Appendix II, referred to in my reply to part (a), regarding communal quotas and preference to sons of railway employees. No preference in the case of sons of railway employees is shown in direct recruitment to a gazetted post.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply given to Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's Starred Question No. 1776, asked in the Legislative Assembly on 11th April, 1945. The reply to the second portion is in the negative.

(e) No.

(f) Figures pertaining to promotion of staff to posts carrying a salary of Rs. 100 per mensem and over are not maintained and the time and labour involved in collecting them would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

As regards direct recruitment to such posts, the information in respect of the S. I. Railway is as follows:

Communities	Calendar year 1945
Hindus . . . . .	4
Indian Christians . . . . .	3
Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European . . . . .	4

Similar information for the B. B. & C. I. Railway is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** With reference to part (f), may I know if the railways themselves do not send report to the Railway Board of the recruitment so far made, and do they not keep in mind communal proportions for the purpose before recruitment is made?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, sir, not before recruitment is made.

**Mr. Frank B. Anthony:** On account of the narrow communal character of the question, will the Honourable Member convey to the Honourable questioner the suggestion that such intolerant questions are responsible for the growing distrust between the different communities in the country?

**Mr. President:** Order, order. The Honourable Member is making a suggestion. He must ask for information.

**Mr. Frank Anthony:** May I know if the Honourable Member will provide information to all such questioners that an Anglo-Indian is an Indian, legally defined as an Indian, and that the term 'Anglo-Indian' is merely a communal label in the same way as the terms 'Hindu' or 'Muslim' are?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Honourable Member has answered his own questions.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Even now, the Honourable Member calls himself an Anglo-Indian.

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



**Mr. Frank Anthony:** For the same reason that you call yourself a Hindu. Why does the Honourable Member call himself a Hindu?

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

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** One supplementary question, Sir.

**Mr. President:** Next question has been called.

#### INDIAN MEMBERS OF AND OFFICERS UNDER RAILWAY BOARD

111. **\*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the present number of members of the Railway Board, and how many of them are Indians and how many non-Indians;

(b) the total number of officers above the rank of Assistant Secretary, who are at present in the Railway Board, and how many of them are Indians;

(c) the total number of General Managers and Deputy General Managers and officers drawing more than Rs. 2,000 on all the State Railways in India, and how many of them are Indians and how many non-Indians;

(d) whether appointment to the posts mentioned in (a) to (c) above is by seniority or by selection and, if by selection, who the selecting authority is;

(e) whether any persons of non-Indian domicile are recruited direct to any kind of posts on the State Railways; and, if so, how many were recruited in 1945 and on what terms;

(f) whether it is proposed to stop non-Indian recruitment at any time in the next few years; and, if not, why not;

(g) whether it is proposed to bring out any non-Indian personnel from the United Kingdom for appointment to any posts under the Post-war Railway Schemes; and, if so, how many and on what terms; and

(h) whether it is proposed, as part of Post-war Railway Schemes to train purely Indian personnel, in India or abroad, for all posts on the Indian Railways; if not, why not?

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

(d) Appointment to these posts is by selection. As regards the latter part of the question, the selecting authority in the case of members of the Railway Board is the Governor General-in-Council, and of the officers referred to in parts (b) and (c) of the question, the Railway Board. General Managers can, however, make officiating appointments to the Junior Administrative grades against vacancies of short duration.

(e) Due to conditions created by the war there has been, for the past few years, no direct recruitment of persons of non-Indian domicile from outside India to the Superior Services. There have, however, been a few cases of non-Indians appointed in India during the emergency on a purely temporary basis.

(f) As stated in the reply to part (e), regular direct recruitment of non-Indians to the Superior Services is in abeyance. As regards non-gazetted establishment, there is no regular direct recruitment of non-Indians. In both cases, however, it may be necessary on occasions to appoint against vacancies requiring specialised technical qualifications persons of non-Indian domicile. Such appointments are, however, rare and are usually on a contract basis.

(g) and (h). The question of obtaining, on short term contracts, two or three Designers from the United Kingdom or U.S.A. in connection with locomotive building in India and of sending suitable personnel Indian and Non-Indian for training abroad is under Government's consideration.



*Statement showing number and distribution between statutory Indians and non-Indians of certain officers in Railway Board's office and on railways as on 28th January 1946.*

	Total number	Indians (including Statutory Indians)	Non-Indians
1. Members, Railway Board (including Chief Commissioner and Financial Commissioner).	5	..	5
2. Officers above the rank of Assistant Secretary working in the Board's office.	38	29	9
3. General Managers . . . . .	9	1	8
4. Deputy General Managers . . . . .	36	15	21
5. Other officers drawing more than Rs. 2,000.	65	10	49
6. Other officers drawing more than Rs. 2,000 (in offices attached to or subordinate to the Board's office).	5	2	3
	158	63	95

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is there a single Indian Member on the Railway Board just now?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Not on the Board itself at this precise moment.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know who is the present Financial Commissioner? Is it a fact that all along, for the past 15 years, the Financial Commissioner of Railways has always been an Indian and not a European?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** That is correct.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Has it been impossible for the Government to find a single suitable Indian to fill up that job?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** There would have been a suitable Indian had it not been that the previous incumbent accepted a post elsewhere.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** When do the Government propose to Indianise the Railway Board personnel entirely?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** In due course.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** How many Indian General Managers are there?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** That information is contained in the statement laid on the table.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will he refer to that statement and tell me now how many Indian General Managers are there?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** One out of nine.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** What is the total strength of General Managers and what percentage does 'one' form out of that?

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** It is one out of 9.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is that Indian retained though he has completed fifty-five years?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** That is correct.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is no other suitable and qualified Indian available to fill up this post or other posts of General Manager?

(No answer.)

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** If all go to them, who will come to us.

## RECRUITMENT TO SUPERINTENDENTS OF POSTS OFFICES

**112. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) if recruitment to the cadre of Superintendents of Post Offices is conducted partly through the Public Service Commission; and if so, in what percentage;

(b) if a certain number of such posts are filled by promotion from subordinate ranks in the various Provinces;

(c) if a certain number used to be recruited formerly from capable Assistants in the Headquarters Office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, and that this has been discontinued for some years past;

(d) if he is aware that a certain number of Assistants from among capable young men in the Imperial Secretariat Departments are recruited by an Officers' Board to the Income-tax Department every year; and

(e) if he will consider the advisability of offering an avenue of promotion to deserving men in the Directorate as used to be the practice before?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a) Yes; 50 per cent.

(b) Yes, 50 per cent. by promotion from among Inspectors of Post Offices and of the Railway Mail Service and Head clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices.

(c) Assistants in the office of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs were eligible along with clerks in post offices, R.M.S. Offices and Circle Offices for selection to appear at a qualifying examination for appointment as Superintendents of Post Offices and R. M. S. This has been discontinued since 1937.

(d) This arrangement has been discontinued.

(e) No, Sir. The deserving men in the Directorate have their own avenues for promotion.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** May I ask the Honourable Member when he proposes to continue the old practice? If not, why not?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** If the Honourable Member means whether I will restore the old practice, the reply is, 'no'.

**Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri:** Is it a fact that in making appointments to superior posts, in the postal department, the Province of Assam is entirely kept out of consideration?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** No, Sir. Promotions are not made on provincial basis. They are made on merit and seniority.

## RAILWAY SURVEYS FOR POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT

**113. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if he is prepared to lay on the table a list of Railway surveys made or proposed to be made as part of the Post-war Railway programme;

(b) if he is aware that the Section between Agra and Delhi on the Great Indian Peninsula route acts as a sort of bottle-neck and impedes fast traffic between these two places and that Mail and Express trains have frequently to wait at wayside stations to let opposing trains pass, on account of the fact that it is only a single line;

(c) if the desirability of making it a double line has at any time been considered; and, if so, the decisions arrived at;

(d) if the doubling of the Agra-Delhi line is proposed to be taken in hand at once, thereby affording immediate employment to a number of Railway hands who might be due for discharge under one rule or another;

(e) if the answer to (d) above is in the negative, the full reasons for the same, and when the survey will be taken up; and

(f) if the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, when the work is likely to be completed?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) A list of the projects which it has been decided to survey, is laid on the table.

(b) I am aware that there is a certain amount of congestion on this section but it is expected that this congestion will disappear with the decline of traffic on the section to the pre-war level.

(c) No project for doubling the line has so far been submitted to the Government of India.

(d) The doubling of this section is not included in present development plans.

(e) In view of my reply to part (b) there is no justification for doubling the line at present, but the situation will be watched.

(f) Does not arise.

*List of projects approved for Survey New Constructions, Restorations and Conversions.*

**EAST INDIAN RAILWAY**

*(a) Dismantled lines to be restored*

	Approx. Mileages Miles
1. Unao-Madhoganj-Balamau . . . . .	78
2. Bijnor-Ohandpur Siau . . . . .	21
3. Utraitia-Sultanpur-Zafarabad . . . . .	136

*(b) New lines*

1. Kioba-Chandausi . . . . .	65
2. Birmitrapur-Barwadih . . . . .	120
3. Chirmiri-Barwadih (Garhwa Road or Untari Road) . . . . .	140
4. Barkagaon-Hazaribagh-Giridih-Dumka-Rampur Haut . . . . .	225
5. Gaya-Sherghati-Chatra-Ranchi . . . . .	110

**BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY**

*(a) Restoration of Dismantled lines*

1. Shaistaganj-Habiganj . . . . .	8
2. Moranhat-Khowang . . . . .	6
3. Amnura-Chapai Nawabganj . . . . .	10

*(b) New lines*

1. Bahadurabad-Goalpara-Pandu with a bridge at Goalpara-Jogighopa and a link from the bridge to Bongaigaon, also Gauripur Mymensingh Mahendraganj.	283
2. Sylhet-Bazar-Chatak . . . . .	21
3. Khowang-Dibrugarh . . . . .	12
4. Faridpur-Madaripur-Barisal . . . . .	80
5. Sainthia-Barhampore-Bhairamara . . . . .	96
6. Rohanpur-Nithpur-Dimaipur . . . . .	76
7. Jharia-Jhanjail-Baghmara-Siju-Jankarai . . . . .	37

*(c) Conversion*

1. Tezpur-Balipara to be converted from N. G. to M. G. . . . .	20
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**BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY**

*(a) Dismantled lines to be restored*

1. Bobbili-Salur . . . . .	10
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*(b) New lines*

1. Ramagundam-Bastar-Jagdalpur Jaypur-Salur (or Vizanagar via Padwa) The portion between Ramagundam and Bastar shall be served by H. E. H. the Nizam's Railway.	290
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NOTE.—At the time of investigation it will be necessary to examine particularly the possibility of connecting Balharshah to Solapur.

	Approx. Mileages Miles	
2. Rajnandgaon (or Drug)-Baster <i>via</i> Kankar and Taragaon . . . . .	120	
3. Sambalpur-Kondagaon <i>via</i> Kantabanji or Lanjigarh . . . . .	247	
4. Talcher (along the valley of the Brahmani river)-Koel Bank . . . . .	100	
5. Talbandh (or Bangriposi)-Badampahar (or Sulapat or Rairangpur) including conversion of Rupsa-Talbandh to B. G.	85 (including 70 miles of con- version).	
6. Khurda Road-Bargarh . . . . .	138	
7. Vishnupur-Santragachi . . . . .	68	
8. Contai Road-Contai-Tamluk-Kolaghat-Ghatat-Chandrakona . . . . .	150	
9. Extension of Lohardaga to meet Barwadih-Birmitrapur . . . . .	23	

(c) *Conversion*

1. Purulia to Lohardaga . . . . .	116
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## SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY

(a) *New lines*

1. Dindigul-Gudallur . . . . .	70
2. Kollengode-Cochin Port . . . . .	41
3. Tanjore-Pattukottai . . . . .	29
4. Arantangi-Karaikkudi . . . . .	20

## M. &amp; S. M. RAILWAY

(a) *New lines*

1. Alnavar-Haliyal-Yellapur-Karwar . . . . .	70
2. Ellore-Saveri Valley . . . . .	70

## G. I. P. RAILWAY

(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*

1. Cawnpore-Khairada . . . . .	81
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(b) *New lines*

1. Diva-Dasgaon . . . . .	93
2. Manmad-Nardhana . . . . .	79
3. Belapur Road-Sheogaon . . . . .	45
4. Baramati-Pandharpur . . . . .	70
5. Kurla-Palasdhari . . . . .	35
6. Amraoti-Narkher . . . . .	79

## B., B. &amp; C. I. RAILWAY

(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*

1. Vasad-Kathana . . . . .	27
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(b) *New lines*

1. Bulsar-Dharampur . . . . .	17
2. Khandwa-Hingoli . . . . .	169

## ODISHA TIRHUT RAILWAY

(a) *New lines*

1. Kaashipur-Kalagarh . . . . .	30
2. Chakia-Alwalia-Sidhwalia . . . . .	27
3. Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa . . . . .	20
4. Murliganj-Madhepura . . . . .	18

## JODHPUR RAILWAY

(a) *New lines*

1. Pithoro-Kahi-Tando Mithakhan-Sanghar-Jhol . . . . .	62
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	Approx. Mileages Miles
1. Nagrota Jogindernagar . . . . .	35
(b) <i>New lines</i>	
1. Havelian-Garhi Habibullah . . . . .	43
2. Charsadda-Mardan . . . . .	17
3. Pezu-Dera Ismail Khan . . . . .	40
4. Tando Mohd Khan-Moghalbin (Jati Taluka) . . . . .	72
5. Badin-Gujrat (Bombay-Sind) . . . . .	268
6. Karachi-Kalat-Quetta . . . . .	410
7. Peshawar-Kohat . . . . .	40
8. Kohat to Bannu . . . . .	80
9. Ruper-Talaura . . . . .	37
10. Khushab-Nurpur Darya Khan . . . . .	70
11. Kashmir-Dera Ghazi Khan . . . . .	90
12. Jhang-Malout . . . . .	100
13. Khewra-Chakwal . . . . .	40
(c) <i>Conversion</i>	
1. Mari Indus-Bannu & Manza Laki Marwat from N.G. to B.G. . . . .	158
2. Jacobabad-Kashmore from N.G. to B.G. . . . .	77
3. Kohat-Thal . . . . .	64

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is it a fact that Government are giving preference to surveys and outlays on strategic railways over the projects which are required for the convenience of the civil population, like the one referred to in this question?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** There are both strategic and purely commercial lines under survey, but no special priority has yet been settled.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know if in the matter of taking up construction of these railways preference will be given to those dismantled during the war, wherever necessary?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** In some cases, Sir.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Is there any proposal to connect the East Indian Railway colliery area with the Bengal and Assam Railway?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I shall require notice of that question. It has been examined but I am not sure whether it is one of those under survey at the present moment.

**Seth Govind Das:** Is the Honourable Member aware that the two most important cities in the Central Provinces, Nagpur and Jabulpur, are not connected with any broad gauge railway? Will he consider this question also?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** All these questions are discussed with the provincial Governments and their views about the development of transport in their provinces are one of the predominating factors.

#### SUPERIOR STAFF IN TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT, OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

**114. \*Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the number of the superior European, Indian and Anglo-Indian staff according to their seniority in the Traffic Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that cases of senior Indian Officers have been ignored in giving promotion in the Traffic Department?

(c) Is it also a fact that the Station Masters and Guards of the said Railway have been ignored in giving promotion in the Traffic Department?

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

(b) and (c). The reply is in the negative.

*Statement showing the number of European, Indian and Anglo-Indian officers according to their seniority in the traffic Department of the O. T. Railway.*

Posts	Europeans		Anglo-Indians		Indians		Total
	No.	Position on the seniority list	No.	Position on the seniority list	No.	Position of the seniority list	
Administrative	2	1st & 2nd	...	...	...	...	2
Senior Scale	6	2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th and 10th.	...	...	4	1st, 3rd, 6th & 8th	10
Junior Scale	1	3rd	2	2nd & 7th	8	1st, 4th to 6th, 8th to 11th.	11

#### LOWER SALARIES ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

**115. \*Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the pay of both the superior and subordinate employees of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway is low in comparison with other Railways and remain so even now when this Railway has been purchased by Government. Do Government propose to consider revision of their pay?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The scales of pay of some categories of staff on the old B. & N. W. and R. & K. Railways were lower on the whole as compared with the corresponding scales on other Government Railways. As already stated in reply to Questions Nos. 29 and 1428, asked on the 8th February and 28th March, 1945, respectively, the scales of pay of certain non-gazetted staff have been revised with effect from 1st April, 1945.

As regards gazetted staff the revised scale for the Junior Scale officers on the old B. & N. W. and R. & K. Railways being less favourable than the State-managed Railways' scale, the officers concerned have been given the latter scale from 1st April, 1945. In addition, the practice of the old B. & N. W. and R. & K. Companies of granting subordinates on the old scales of pay, promoted to gazetted rank, pay on the revised scales of pay, has been abolished, and the usual rule on Government Railways under which subordinates on old scales of pay are eligible, on promotion to gazetted rank, for the old scales of pay of that rank, has been substituted.

As regards the latter portion of the question, Government do not consider there is justification for further immediate revision of the scales, but the matter will be examined as part of the general question of postwar scales of pay.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are we to understand that any discrimination that has existed between the scales of pay and allowances given to the employees of this railway and to the employees on the other State railways has been done away with?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** There is no discrimination. The old companies had their own scales of pay and these differ from the scales of pay on many other railways, just as the scales of pay on different Government railways also differ. Certain adjustments have been made and of course further adjustments will be considered when the general question of post-war scales of pay comes under consideration, as it is at the present moment. But even then the probability is that they will not be uniform.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Why should there be different scales of pay even on the Government railways for similar work done by their employees?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** That is for historical reasons and also for the reason that costs of living vary in different parts of the country.

### LOWER SALARIES ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

**116. \*Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Railway Member been drawn to the resolution regarding racial discrimination and increase in the scales of pay passed by the Employees' Association Conference of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway held at Gorakhpur in June 1945?

(b) Is any action proposed to be taken on it? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). Government have seen the resolutions in question and are satisfied that no racial discrimination as alleged exists. As regards the question of increase in the scales of pay of staff on the O. & T. Railway, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply I have given to the preceding question.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Is the Honourable Member quite sure that there is no racial discrimination in the matter of pay on the O. & T. Railway? Are the scales of pay of European or Anglo-Indian guards the same as those for Indian guards?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I was under that impression but I will make inquiries.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Is it not a fact that Anglo-Indian and Indian guards are on different scales and in the officers' grades also European and Indian officers are on different grades, in this O. & T. Railway?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I shall require notice of that question.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Will the Honourable Member at least make an inquiry on this point?

**Mr. President:** Order, order; next question.

### BAD LIGHTING AND LATRINES ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY TRAINS

**117. \*Mr. B. B. Varma:** Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that there is no arrangement for lights and latrines in the Third class carriages of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway trains running from Narkatiaganj to Bhikna-thori, Bagaha, Samastipur and Muzaffarpur (33 Up, 34 Dn., 103 Up and 104 Dn.) Narkatiaganj to Muzaffarpur?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Government is aware of the difficulties which the O. & T. Railway has experienced in providing lighting arrangements on the trains referred to, but the position should now improve.

With regard to latrines in the Third Class carriages on those trains, a large percentage of third class carriages on rakes running on 33 Up and 34 Down Narkatiaganj—Samastipur passenger trains and 103 Up and 104 Down Narkatiaganj—Muzaffarpur passenger trains are fitted with latrines; on rakes which are not so fitted, additional third class carriages are attached to provide latrine accommodation.

Latrine accommodation is not provided in third class carriages running on trains on the sections Narkatiaganj—Bagaha and Narkatiaganj—Bhikna Thori, as they are short distance branches of 26 and 22 miles respectively.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is the Honourable Member aware only of the difficulties of the railway administrations in providing these lights and latrines or is he also aware of the inconveniences and difficulties of the passengers themselves for want of these things?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes, Sir, of course I am aware of them. But the difficulties of the railways are that they have been unable to get the number of lamps that they had ordered; and in the case of the O. & T. Railway against an order of 34,200 lamps last year they got only 21,200.—a shortage of 13,000.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saxena:** Are there any other railways which have not been able to get the required number of lamps?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes, Sir, several other railways have been in difficulties about this.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saxena:** Is there any provision in the Railway Act by which railways may be stopped from running trains without lights and latrines?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir, not as regards lights.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is the Honourable Member aware that even if there are difficulties about bulbs, there can be no difficulty about latrines, because it only means making a hole in the compartment?

(No reply was given.)

**Seth Govind Das:** Is the Honourable Member aware that on certain lines, particularly on trains running between Jubbulpur and Gondia, the metre gauge has no lamps even in ladies compartments?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The question does not seem to arise, Sir.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Is the Honourable Member aware that with regard to all third class compartments in all the trains on the O. & T. Railway no lighting arrangement has been made so far?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Honourable Member is aware that Government have only fairly recently taken over these railways, and it takes some time—particularly in the conditions which have prevailed during war time—to improve the standard of travel up to that which we should like to see.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is the Honourable Member aware that wherever latrine arrangements are made on the O. & T. Railway the room is so small that the Honourable Member could not get into it?

(No reply was given.)

#### CONGESTION OF TRAFFIC AT LEVEL CROSSING NEAR NARKATIAGANJ RAILWAY STATION

**118. \*Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that there is a heavy rush of carts carrying cane for the New Swadeshi Sugar Mills and which has to pass the railway crossing near the Narkatiaganj Railway Station and that the traffic of the passengers and cane carts is held up for a long time, due to shunting and the arrival and departure of the trains, to their great inconvenience?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to take steps for the provision of a underground passage and thus remove a crying want of the public, in general and the carters, in particular?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) From the statement of arrival and departure of passenger and mixed trains at and from Narkatiaganj, there appears to be no undue delay to road traffic at the level crossing. Occasional shunting has to be performed over the level crossing during which the gates are closed to road traffic for short periods, particularly during the cane crushing season.

(b) It would not be feasible to provide a road underbridge at this site as the bank is about 3 ft. in height only and is sometimes over-topped during floods.

#### NOTICES OF TERMINATION OF PERMITS ON U. P. MOTOR BUS OPERATORS

**119. \*Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state whether it is a fact that the United Provinces Government have served notices under the Governor General's Ordinance XXXIII, on all the motor bus operators in the Province stating that their permit for plying the buses will be terminated by 30th April, 1946?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the motor bus operators of the United Provinces went on strike in the month of December, 1945, as a protest against the Rail Road Co-ordination Scheme of the Provincial Government?

(c) Is it a fact that the United Provinces Government are trying to enforce the aforesaid scheme from the 15th of February 1946?



**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) On the assumption that the Honourable Member refers to action taken under Ordinance XXXI of 1945 and not Ordinance XXXIII, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) It is understood that the Provincial Government hope to have the Joint Road-Rail Companies in operation by the date mentioned. This will be subject, so far as the Central Government is concerned, to the undertaking which I have given in this House regarding new financial commitments being entered into by Railways.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Is it a fact that the Honourable Member has given an assurance in this House that no action will be taken against these bus-operators under the Defence of India Act or under any Ordinance promulgated under the Defence of India Act?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I do not remember having given any assurance with reference to this Ordinance.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Is it not a fact that this Ordinance was enacted at the suggestion of the Provincial Government?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** It was done in consultation with them.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Is it not a fact that the whole matter is under the consideration of a Committee that was appointed by the House the other day; and, if so, will the Honourable Member ask the Provincial Government to withhold any action till that Committee has reported?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** This House has no jurisdiction over the Provincial Governments.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has just now said that it was in consultation with the Provincial Government that he had issued this Ordinance, will it be impossible for the Honourable Member to suggest to the Provincial Government that they should stay action until the Central Government is able to come to a definite decision in consultation with this House?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have already said that so far as we are concerned, we are not making any new financial commitment.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I am suggesting that the Honourable Member should make a suggestion to the Provincial Government that they should stay their action.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I will consider that.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Although this House has no constitutional control over the Provinces, is it not a fact that in so far as the contribution of financial quota is concerned, they can easily say that they will not contribute the Central Government's quota, and thus bring pressure to bear on them?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have said that I will make no new financial commitments while this question is before the House.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** In view of the fact that the Ordinance was issued by the Central Government, will the Honourable Member withdraw its operation in the provinces that do not fall in line with the views of the Central Government?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** This question will be discussed in the committee in the course of its next meeting.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** In view of the fact that the date—15th of February—is not far off, will the Honourable Member take action immediately?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have already said that I will consider it.

**Sgt. N. V. Gadgil:** Is it not a fact that this Rail-Road Co-ordination scheme is a peace-time scheme? If so, why is it that the Government has promulgated an Ordinance which should only be resorted to in connection with the prosecution of the war?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** This question again will be discussed on the Committee which has been appointed for the purpose, but I would point out that the Ordinance XXXIII of 1945 reduced the powers under a previous Ordinance and did not increase them.

#### RETRENCHMENT IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

†120. \***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) what instructions have been given to the Indian Ordnance Factories for the selection of temporary staff for reduction;

(b) whether the staff reduction policy, as explained by him, is being observed in practice also by the factories;

(c) whether he has read the news item published in the *Dawn*, dated the 11th January, 1946, under the heading 'Retrenchment in Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar';

(d) whether he has ordered an enquiry; if not, why not;

(e) if he is aware that in a case the National Service Tribunal, Cawnpore, intervened and got an Assistant Foreman who was unjustly retrenched, re-instated;

(f) whether he is aware of the fact that men with over four to six years' service having quite satisfactory record have been discharged from the Muradnagar Factory; if so, their number, qualifications, and length of service;

(g) the circumstances under which the Government of India orders were ignored in each of the case; and

(h) whether Government propose to order re-instatement of such of the Foremen, Assistant Foremen and Chargemen who have been retrenched, in spite of the fact that they possess high academic qualifications.

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Instructions governing the release of staff in Ordnance Factories are contained in the late Supply Department Office Memorandum No. E-28(603), dated 13th September 1945. A copy of the instructions is placed on the table.

(b) Yes, Sir. All release proposals are submitted for scrutiny to the Additional Director General in charge of the Ordnance Factories.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. The Additional Director General had already examined the case.

(e) The Assistant Foreman concerned was released in accordance with the Departmental instructions and with the prior permission of the National Service Labour Tribunal, Cawnpore. As the result of an appeal, however, the Tribunal, under instructions from Labour Department, ordered his reinstatement pending a decision on the appeal.

(f) Only one member of the staff with over four years' service has been retrenched from the Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar, against his will.

(g) and (h). Do not arise.

No. E-28 (603)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY  
(MAIN SECRETARIAT)

New Delhi, the 13th September 1945

#### OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:—Release of Temporary (War) Staff of Ordnance Factories

Government has approved the following principles for the release of civilian personnel of Ordnance, Clothing (including Parachute) and Harness & Saddlery Factories consequent on the termination of the War.

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

2. Eligibility for release shall be in accordance with the following order of priority :—

1. (a) Permanent staff who has reached the age of retirement.  
(b) Temporary civilian staff or soldiers, whose services are required by their former employers for work of national importance.

(c) Temporary civilian staff or soldiers whose services are required by prospective employers, other than their former employers, for work of national importance.

2. Temporary civilian staff or soldiers, demanding release for urgent private reasons.

3. Temporary civilian staff or soldiers whose release is demanded by former or other prospective employers for work not for national importance.

3. There should be little difficulty in dealing with the release of men category 1(a) above. It is to categories 1(b), (c), (2) and (3) that the instructions in this Office Memorandum are meant to apply. Staff in these categories may be divided into the following groups.

I. Men of non-Asiatic domicile recruited in the United Kingdom and serving under agreements executed in England, or recruited in India, or "called up" under Act XVIII of 1940.

II. Men of Asiatic domicile recruited in the United Kingdom and serving under agreement executed in England, or recruited in India, or taken into the national service under Ordinance II of 1940.

III. Soldiers.

4. As soon as possible after the receipt of orders for reductions in output, officers-in-charge of factories should submit a statement of posts to be surrendered or held in abeyance, the names of the individuals who can be released in consequence with the suggested date of release in each case.

5. The individual to be released or discharged as the result of the surrender of a post may not in some cases be the incumbent of that post, but some other member of the staff who, after any re-arrangement of duties found necessary in the interests of efficiency and of fairness to be individual concerned, can be released (i) with the minimum of inconvenience to the factory, or (ii) to meet an urgent demand for his services, or (iii) because he claims release is legally entitled thereto.

If the holder of an officiating or temporary appointment whose discharge on reduction of establishment is under consideration, is willing to accept an appointment in the lower grade, the possibility of retaining his services in the lower grade (which may involve the discharge or reversion of an individual in that grade with an inferior claim to retention) should be considered.

In proposing the re-arrangement of duties referred to above Officers-in-charge will bear in mind not only the principles here laid down but also the necessity of allowing for reversion of staff to posts or grades on which they hold a lien, or to which they have other reasonable claims and the general suitability of an individual for the post in which it is proposed to retain him.

6. In forwarding recommendations for release or discharge, Officers-in-charge will indicate the reasons for such recommendations on a form to be supplied to factories for this purpose.

7. The intention is, as far as possible, to accept the recommendations of the Officer-in-charge but, in the cases in which the release of an individual from another factory instead of the person suggested by the Officer-in-charge will, in the opinion of the Directorate General Supply or the Additional Director General (Ordnance Factories), as the case may be, be in the interest of the State, orders will be issued accordingly and the necessary inter-factory transfers arranged.

8. In addition to recommendations from Officers-in-charge of Factories for the release of staff, demands for the release of men employed in the Factories or at headquarters may be received from other sources.

On receipt, through the proper channel, of a recommendation or demand for the release of a member of the staff of a factory or of headquarters, the possibility of complying with the demand will be investigated by the Directorate General Supply or the Additional Director General (Ordnance Factories), as the case may be. If the required information is not available, a reference will be made to the factory in which the individual concerned is employed and a report on the implications of the proposed release including, if it appears to be in the interests of the State, suggestions for inter-factory transfer or other re-arrangements of duties, will be submitted to the Directorate General Supply or Additional Director General (Ordnance Factories) as the case may be, for a decision whether or not the name of the individual concerned shall be placed on the "redundant or replaceable" list on receipt of orders from the Directorate General Supply or the Additional Director General (Ordnance Factories) as the case may be, to place a name on this list the Headquarters of the Factories will take action as indicated in the table appended hereto for release.

9. The Director General Supply or the Additional Director General (Ordnance Factories), as the case may be, will release any one called up under the National Service (European British Subjects) Act of 1940 without waiting for the concurrence of the Defence Department, who should, however, be advised of all such releases. The existing procedure for the issue of exit permits in such cases will continue.

10. This Department Office Memorandum No. E-28 (603), dated the 15th August 1945 is hereby cancelled.

P. R. NAYAK,

*Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.*

To

1. Director General, Munitions Production, Calcutta.
2. Director General, Supply, New Delhi.

Copy for information to :

1. Finance Department (Supply) New Delhi.
2. Defence Department, New Delhi.
3. War Department, New Delhi.
4. Labour Department, New Delhi.
5. Master General of the Ordnance in India, New Delhi.
6. Adjutant General in India, New Delhi.
7. E-III Branch.

P. R. NAYAK,

*Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.*

#### RETRENCHED SIKHS IN METAL AND STEEL ORDNANCE FACTORIES

†121. \*Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of each of the Foremen, Assistant Foremen and Chargemen in the Laboratory Section of the Ordnance Factories Metal and Steel, stationed at Ambernath, Katni, Cawnpore and Muradnagar respectively, as it stood on the 15th December, 1945, and how many of them were Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs, and the number of Europeans and Anglo-Indians;

(b) the number and qualifications with total length of service of each of the Sikhs who have been brought under reduction in the said grades of the Section of each of the Factories;

(c) whether in retrenching these men, the instructions of the Industries and Supplies Department were strictly followed; if not, why not;

(d) whether he is aware that, in spite of the fact that Sikhs are very much under represented, they are being selected for retrenchment; and

(e) whether he proposes to issue necessary instructions for safeguarding their interests as so; if not, why not?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) The total number of Foremen, Assistant Foremen and Chargemen in the Laboratory Sections of the Factories in question on 15th December 1945, community-wise, are shown below:

Metal and Steel Factory	.	.	.	Foreman	
				Assistant Foreman	1 Hindu
				Chargemen	3 Hindu
Ordnance Factory, Ambernath	.	.	.	Foreman	1 European
Ordnance Factory, Katni	.	.	.	Assistant Foreman	1 Hindu
Ordnance Factory, Cawnpore	.	.	.	Assistant Foreman	1 European
				Foreman	1 Hindu
				Chargeman	1 Hindu
Ordnance Factory, Moradnagar	.	.	.	Foreman	1 Hindu
				Assistant Foreman	1 Sikh

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

(b) One Sikh only has been discharged. He is an M.Sc. in Organic Chemistry of the Punjab University and had six years' service in the Ordnance Factories.

(c) In discharging him the instructions prescribed by the late Supply Department, a copy of which has been placed on the table, were strictly followed.

(d) No, Sir. Two Sikhs only of the grades mentioned in the five factories have been released.

(e) Does not arise.

#### CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL AGENCIES

**122. \*Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state:

(a) the foreign countries which have consular or commercial agencies in India of any kind;

(b) whether in those countries India is represented officially by any consular or trade or commercial representatives; and

(c) whether Government is considering the question of establishing such agencies in all countries which are represented in India, and in other countries also where it may be possible to do so?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** The question will be answered by the Honourable Member for Commerce.

#### EXPANSION OF CIVIL AVIATION

**123 \*Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the number and routes of Civil Air services in existence at the present day, and the period of their existence;

(b) the number of flying clubs, and the nature of the service these clubs render;

(c) the nature of management (whether European or Indian) of each of the services and clubs referred to in (a) and (b) above;

(d) whether Government have in contemplation expansion of air service (Civil) in the immediate future; if so, the nature of the proposed expansion, giving details of routes, composition of services and the approximate time for giving effect to such expansion;

(e) whether Government have taken steps for the creation of an Air Transport Licensing Board; if so, the nature and composition of the Board, the nature of rights with which they are proposed to be clothed and the nature of duties with which they are proposed to be entrusted; and

(f) the Government policy with regard to postwar planning for Civil Aviation in the country?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a), (b) and (c). I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for.

(d) Yes: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the plans for the post-war development of Civil Aviation, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the Legislature.

(e) The composition and functions of the Air Transport Licensing Board are defined in the rules for the licensing of air transport services, which have been published in the *Gazette of India*, of the 26th January, 1946, under the Posts and Air Department Notification No. 11-M(A)/1-46, dated the 23rd January 1946. The Government of India are taking action to constitute the Licensing Board shortly.

(f) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (d) of this question.

*Statement.*

(a) The number and routes of civil air services at present in existence, and the period of their existing :

I. *Indian Air Services :*(A) *Tata Air Lines—*

Routes operated	Present Frequency	When started
1. Karachi Ahmedabad-Bombay- Hyderabad- Madras-Colombo.	Daily	15-10-32
2. Bombay-Ahmedabad-Delhi .	Daily	16-4-45

(B) *Indian National Airways—*

Routes operated	Present Frequency	When started
1. Delhi-Cawnpore-Allahabad-Calcutta	Daily	27-6-40
2. Delhi-Jodhpur-Karachi . . . .	Daily	21-1-43
3. Delhi-Lahore-Chaklala-Peshawar . . .	3 Weekly	19-8-43

II. *Foreign Air Service :*(A) *China National Aviation Corporation—*

1. Calcutta-Bhamo-Kunming-Chungking .	(no regular schedule)	22-12-45
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NOTE.—This company started operations in India in December 1941 with a twice weekly service between Calcutta and Lashio. During most part of the war with Japan, the services were operated on the route Calcutta-Dinjan-Kunming-Chungking. The operations are conducted under a special agreement for the war.

(B) *British Overseas Airways Corporation—**"Sunderland" Flying Boats.*

1. Poole (England)-Karachi-Calcutta. (3 weekly).
2. Poole (England)-Karachi-Calcutta-Rangoon-Singapore. (3 weekly).

*"O" Class Flying Boats.*

3. Durban-Cairo-Karachi-Raj Samand-Gwalior-Allahabad-Calcutta. (2 weekly).
4. Cairo-Karachi-Raj Samand-Gwalior-Allahabad-Calcutta. (2 weekly).

*"York" Landplanes.*

5. Hurn (England)-Cairo-Basra-Karachi-Delhi-Calcutta. (2 weekly).

*"Lockheed Lodestar" landplanes.*

6. Cairo-Aden-Jiwani-Karachi. (1 weekly).

*"Lancastrian" landplanes.*

7. Hurn (England)-Lydda-Karachi-Colombo-Learmonth-Sydney. (3 weekly).

NOTE.—The England-India route was opened in 1929, the services were extended to Calcutta in July 1933, to Rangoon in October of the same year, and to Singapore on 18th December 1933. A year later the services were extended to Australia. Since the beginning of the war, the routes and frequencies of services have been subject to frequent change.

(b) *Number of Flying Clubs*

*Active Clubs.*—Five : Karachi Aero Club, Bihar, Bombay, Madras and Northern India Flying Clubs.

*Clubs whose activities were suspended owing to the war and are proposed to be revived soon.*—Three : United Provinces, Delhi and Bengal Flying Clubs. (There are also two Clubs in Indian States, namely Jodhpur and Hyderabad).

*Nature of the service rendered.*—The active flying clubs are employed in flying for the Indian Air Training Corps, to give air experience to members.

The normal purpose of flying clubs is to provide facilities for the public to learn and practise the art of flying.

(c) the nature of management (whether European or Indian) of each of the services and clubs referred to in (a) and (b).

A. *Management of Air Companies.*

1. *Tata Air Lines :* Tata Air Lines is a department of Tata Sons Limited—an Indian Company.

2. *Indian National Airways Ltd.*—The company is an Indian Company with a Board of Directors appointed by the shareholders. The managing agents are Govan Brothers Limited—an Indian Company.

3. *China National Aviation Corporation.*—The Corporation is a Chinese concern.

4. *British Overseas Airways Corporation.*—The Corporation is a public utility Corporation constituted by an Act of Parliament and managed by a Board appointed by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

**B. Management of Flying Clubs.**

The Flying Clubs (except the Northern India Flying Club) are registered as limited liability companies. Membership is open to Indians and Europeans. The management of the clubs is vested in Managing Committees elected by the members; the Government of India appoint two members on the Committee of each flying club in British India.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether Government will place before this House the proposed composition of the Licensing Board?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** Sir, according to the provisions of the Indian Aircraft Act, these Rules will be placed on the table of the House very shortly.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Is there any possibility of amending the Rules so that the Central Legislature might be associated with this Licensing Board by having at least one of its Members on it?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** I think the Rules provide for this; it is open to the House to make suggestions which will be considered.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether any applications are pending with the Government asking for opening of different lines all over the country?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** I would require notice of that question, but in any case it will be for the Licensing Board to decide whether a licence would be given or not.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the Government received an application from Airways Limited in which they asked for permission to open a route from Calcutta to Dacca and Sylhet?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** I shall require notice of that question.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** With regard to part (d), is it not a fact that there is an application pending from a Muslim Company, and as there are no Muslim Companies will it be considered favourably and a licence given to them?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** As I have already stated, this will be for the Licensing Board to decide. At present there is no provision for giving any licence to any Air Transport Company.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Honourable Member be pleased to consider the desirability of issuing a press communiqué giving a précis of Government's policy with regard to this matter?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** A press communiqué was issued on the 24th of May 1945, giving a clear statement of the policy of the Government of India with regard to the development of air transport services.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** My question was different. In view of the fact that the matter under question is an entirely new thing and public is not very much used to these things, will the Honourable Member be pleased to consider the desirability of issuing a further communiqué in which the points raised by these questions and the answers made thereto will be set forth?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** I take it the questions and answers in this House will be published in the newspapers and that will give the necessary publicity.

**Mr. President:** Next question.

## REPUBLICATION OF NATIONAL CONGRESS OF LAHORE

**124. \*Shri Sri Prakasa** (on behalf of **Srijut Dharendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury**): Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last two years sanction has been granted by the Government of India for the publication of new daily and weekly papers in India and that quota of paper has also been allotted to those papers; and

(b) the reason why the weekly *Urdu National Congress* of Lahore has not been granted permission to restart publication, in spite of the fact that it was already getting a regular quota of paper up to the date when its publication was suspended on the 9th August, 1942, *vide* the Government of India's letter, dated the 5th February, 1943 saying that they have no objection to its republication under the Paper Control Order?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The letter of the 5th February 1943, referred to was issued by the Paper Production Commissioner who merely replied, to an enquiry from the management of the *National Congress*, that, in the circumstances explained by them, there was no objection to the resumption of publication. This was with reference to the supply position of paper as it then stood. The newspaper did not then start publication and came up again for permission in 1944. As the supply position had deteriorated meanwhile, permission was refused.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Did they not take any political consideration into account when they were refusing permission to this paper?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** No, Sir, not as far as I am aware.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Is the Honourable Member aware that in respect of The Bengali *Harijan* an application had been made to the Department asking for a quota of paper, but that the matter has been held up although for the English and Gujarati publications quota has been obtained?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Sir, I am afraid I must ask for notice of this question.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** With reference to Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of the question, may I know if Government have any definite policy in the matter of granting or not granting permission?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** One object is to consider and provide some arrangements for publicity to various schools of thought which would otherwise get none whatever.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** May we take it that the Government have no political considerations in the matter?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** Certainly.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** With reference to Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, may I ask whether the present condition of newsprint position in India permits of giving permission to this paper to restart?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** I am afraid not, Sir, at present.

## RESTRICTIONS ON NEWSPRINT QUOTA.

**125. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state by which date or time the restrictions on newsprint quota will be removed?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that some of the leading Indian language daily newspapers of high standing and huge circulation have been given a quota far less than their actual need, and that a representation was made on their behalf by the 'All India Journalist Association'?

(c) What steps, if any, have been or are being taken to meet their just demands?



**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Restrictions on newsprint quotas will be removed as soon as the supply position of newsprint sufficiently improves to justify such a step.

(b) Newsprint quotas for newspapers were fixed on the basis of the figures of the actual consumption in the basic period, July-December 1942, which period was selected in consultation with the representatives of newspaper interests. Due to the scarcity of newsprint, these quotas were less than the actual needs of all newspapers. In August 1945, the All India Hindi Journalists Association addressed Government expressing the hope that supplies of newsprint would become easier and enable Government to lift the control. Unfortunately that hope has not materialised yet. Government are making every effort to get increased supplies of newsprint from Canada as well as the Scandinavian countries this year.

(c) Representations received from individual newspapers have been considered and if it is found that the selection of the basic period has resulted in a definite hardship to any particular newspaper, its quota has been increased on the merits of the case.

### (b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

#### TELE-PRINTER NEWS SERVICE FOR CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

**126. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that necessity for efficient news service through tele-printer is keenly felt in the Central Provinces and Berar and its absence is a great handicap in the Province?

(b) Is he aware that tele-printer lines pass through the town of Nagpur and Jubbulpore in the said Province?

(c) Does the Honourable Member, propose to take steps to introduce tele-printer service between both these towns and, if there be any technological and mechanical alterations and changes necessary to take steps to get these made?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a) Government are not aware of any general demand of this character from C. P. & Berar, but an application has been received from a news agency and there have been informal enquiries recently from another source.

(b) Yes, but the towns of Nagpur and Jubbulpore are not served by those lines.

(c) Government will make every endeavour to meet any firm demands which are received, having regard to the facilities available from time to time.

#### TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR SEONI

**127. \*Seth Govind Das:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether a telephone line is being constructed from Nagpur to Jubbulpore through Seoni to connect these two towns directly and by the shortest distance? If so, will this line be available for being tapped at Seoni for connecting the Seoni town with the rest of the country by giving the trunk telephone facilities there? If so, what arrangements are being made to that effect, and will a local telephone system be installed at Seoni?

**Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** A telephone carrier line is being constructed between Nagpur and Jubbulpore via Seoni. The work is likely to be completed in May 1946.

One of the trunk circuits on this line will be tapped to open a Public Call Office at Seoni to give trunk telephone facilities there. The Public Call Office will provide for four extensions, one of which will be utilised to meet a definite demand from the Local Government and the other three will be available to meet any other private subscriber's demands if required.

There has been no public demand for a telephone exchange at Seoni.

## AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE FOR JUBBULPORE

**128. \*Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether he is aware of the great inconvenience being felt by the residents of the Jubbulpore town, in general and the telephone subscribers, in particular, due to the absence of automatic connecting system of the telephone?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to institute an automatic connection system? If so, by what time?

**Sir Gurnath Bewoor:** (a) Government are not aware of any special inconvenience felt by the telephone subscribers due to the absence of an automatic system at Jubbulpore.

(b) There is no proposal at present to convert the manual system at Jubbulpore to an automatic system.

POST-WAR POLICY *re* INLAND STEAM VESSELS

**129. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to refer to the debate that took place on the 23rd February, 1945, on a cut motion, which was carried by the Legislative Assembly relating to the post-war policy regarding ownership and management of steam vessels plying in inland waters that either link up Railway systems or compete with them, and make a statement indicating what progress has been made in the determination of policy in this connection?

(b) When was this question taken up with the Provinces as promised by the Honourable Member, and with what result?

(c) Has the matter been considered by the Post-war Transport Policy Committee as also by the Transport Advisory Council? If so, with what result?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). As the House is aware, Inland waterways and traffic on them is a Provincial subject, and it was therefore necessary to consult the Provincial Governments concerned in this matter. Soon after the cut motion, to which the Honourable Member refers, was carried, two technical experts were called on to make an enquiry into the history of rail-river competition in North East India and their notes, which were received towards the end of July 1945, have formed the historical background for a consideration of this subject. A memorandum setting out the major issues, as they appeared to the Government of India, was sent to the Government of Bengal in December and afterwards to the Governments of Bihar and Assam. A reply has been received from the Government of Bengal.

(c) The matter has not yet been considered by the Policy Committee on Transport. It will be placed before the committee after replies have been received from all the three Provincial Governments concerned. Whether it will be necessary to place the matter before the Transport Advisory Council will depend upon the views of the Provincial Governments.

## BREACH ON DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAY LINE

**130. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to make a statement regarding the breach that occurred in the Siliguri-Gielle Khola Section of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway during the last rainy season and indicate the time that may be taken for a complete restoration of service on that line?

(b) Have complaints been received by the Railway authorities regarding the delay in the restoration of the line, and failure to provide adequate interim transshipment facilities for the benefit of traffic? If so, what action has been taken on such complaints?

(c) Is it a fact that considerable traffic in Tibetan wool and other heavy goods traffic depend on this line, and that the connected trade has been suffering on account of the delay in the restoration of the train service and failure to provide adequate interim transshipment facilities?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) On the 3rd August 1945, the railway track at the 16th mile on the Teesta Valley Extension was breached owing to a landslide. Government are advised that everything possible has been and is being done to move essential traffic and to repair the breach. It is expected that through running will be resumed by the middle of this month.

(b) Yes; complaints have been received and the Railway Administration and the Managing Agents were urged to provide all possible transshipment facilities till the breach is repaired.

(c) There is considerable traffic in Tibetan wool and other heavy goods which depends on this line for movement. The railway authorities have made every effort to tranship essential traffic within the resources of road vehicles available to them, and the limitations of the new emergency road built to replace the road carried away by the landslide. As soon as this new road was fit to take jeeps, transshipment started to the extent of about 2,200 mds. per diem. The amount transhipped now averages 5,400 mds. per diem. The traffic transhipped consists of foodstuffs, perishables (including oranges) and about 100 bales of wool.

#### ACQUIRING OF COMPANY-OWNED RAILWAYS

**131. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the intentions of Government in regard to the exercise of option of acquiring each of the twelve railway lines still owned by Companies, mentioned in reply to starred question No. 896 of the 12th March, 1945, where the option lies with the Government?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Government do not intend to exercise the first option of purchasing the railway lines Nos. 8, 10 and 17 mentioned in reply to Starred Question No. 896 of the 12th March 1945.

The case of railway line No. 3 is under consideration.

The question of purchasing the others, being premature, will be considered in due course.

#### WHEREABOUTS OF RAJA MAHENDRA PRATAP

**132. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state whether the Government of India made any enquiries about the whereabouts of Raja Mahendra Pratap?

(b) Are Government aware that the Raja had become a pacifist and that prior to the outbreak of the second world war he had been carrying on an intensive campaign to stop all wars?

(c) Do Government propose to enquire from the American authorities in Japan the nature of charges, if any, against Raja Mahendra Pratap, and whether he is going to be tried for them?

(d) Have Government any information about his health? If so, what?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** (a) No, Sir.

The answer to parts (b), (c) and (d) is also in the negative.

#### STRANDED INDIANS OUTSIDE BRITISH EMPIRE

**133. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Foreign Secretary please state the number of Indians stranded in different countries outside British Empire, and how long it would take to repatriate them?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** The approximate numbers of Indians who are known to have been in various enemy-held foreign territories during the war are as follows:

(i) Japan	100
(ii) Occupied China	2,500—3,000
(iii) Philippines	800—900
(iv) Netherlands East Indies	2,000
(v) Siam	50,000
(vi) French Indo-China	2,000

No precise figures are available as to the number of Indians in Europe and foreign territories in Africa but the number is known to be small. Few of these persons can be said to be 'stranded', since the Indian communities had generally settled or resided for many years in those territories, continued to carry on their normal business during the war and the great majority have expressed no desire to return immediately to India.

On the other hand Indian labourers who had been forcibly removed from Malaya to Siam by the Japanese and of whom roughly 17,000 have been recovered, are anxious to return to Malaya. They are already being assisted to return to Malaya at the approximate rate of 4,800 a month.

2. The repatriation of Indians from overseas has already begun, 1,159 Indians having been repatriated from China, mainly from Shanghai where conditions were acute, and smaller numbers from the Philippines, Japan and Java. Steps are being taken to expedite the repatriation of those Indians who wish to return to this country from Siam, French Indo-China and other territories in the Far East, as well as from Europe and Africa, but it is impossible to say how soon this will be completed because that will depend on the availability of shipping.

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

**134. \*Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies 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?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** The question relates to the Food Department, and will be answered by the Secretary, Food Department.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

##### REFUSAL OF IMPORT LICENCES FOR GUNMETAL

**19. Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Is the Honourable Industries and Supplies Member aware that licenses for importing gunmetal from the United Kingdom are being refused in this country and that Government offers to supply gunmetal from their surplus stocks at a price which is about 154 per cent higher than the price ruling in the United Kingdom as a result of which Indian manufacturers using gunmetal are prevented from competing successfully against imported articles?

(b) What steps do Government intend taking for permitting the Indian users of gunmetal to get their raw material at a price commensurate with the price of the metal ruling in foreign countries?

(c) What is Government's general policy for making available to the Indian manufacturers industrial raw materials lying surplus with Government at prices commensurate with prices ruling in the foreign market and particularly in the United Kingdom?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Licences for import of Gunmetal from the U.K. are not issued because there is a ban on export of this class of material from that country. The difference in price between the indigenous and imported material is due to the higher price of virgin metals and the scarcity of scrap in India.

(b) Every effort has been and is being made to import Gunmetal from the U.K. and other countries, but for all metals containing tin the situation is not likely to improve until the world tin situation is eased.

(c) The general policy adopted in the fixation of prices of Government surpluses is to link them up where possible with the ruling prices of such materials in the Indian market, which in the case of controlled items, may be equal to or lower than the controlled prices. Foreign market prices are one of the factors determining the level of current market prices.

#### GRIEVANCES OF B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY (METER GAUGE) STAFF

**20. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Railways been drawn to the editorial article appearing in the "Rajput Hero" of Ajmer dated 1st December, 1945 pointing out the grievances of the staff of the B., B. & C. I. Railway Metre Gauge? Is it a fact that the allegations made therein about favouritism and suppression of appeals to higher authorities are true?

(b) Is it a fact that the Manager, B., B. & C. I. Railway, has failed to take steps to investigate into and redress the aforesaid conditions?

(c) Do Government consider it desirable to take up the question now?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). I have seen the article referred to in part (a) of the question and consider that the complaints and allegations made therein are of too vague and general a nature to warrant any special enquiry.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

#### PERSONS UNDER PREVENTIVE DETENTION

**21. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House giving the names of persons who are undergoing preventive detention for reasons of State connected with External Affairs?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** By preventive detention the Honourable Member presumably means detention in jail. The following ten persons are at present undergoing detention under Regulation III of 1918 for reasons of State connected with External Affairs:

1. Sardar Ghulam Ahmad, s/o Sardar Ali Ahmad Jan.
2. Sardar Fazal Ahmad, s/o Sardar Ali Ahmad Jan.
3. Sardar Ali Mohamad, s/o Sardar Ali Ahmad Jan.
4. Sardar Fakir Ahmad, s/o Sardar Ali Ahmad Jan.
5. Musamat Shah Bano, wife of Sardar Ali Ahmad Jan.
6. Musamat Shah Gul, wife of Sardar Ghulam Ahmad.
7. Musamat Mah Gul, wife of Sardar Ghulam Ahmad.
8. Musamat Mah Gul, wife of Sardar Ali Mohamad.
9. Sardar Abdulla Jan, s/o Sardar Mohd. Ishaq Khan.
10. Sardar Mohd. Hasan Khan, s/o Sardar Mohd. Ishaq Khan.

#### POLITICAL PENSIONS IN CONNECTION WITH LAST WAR

**22. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving:

(i) the names and addresses of persons, if any, who are being paid political pensions for rendering services abroad in connection with the last war as well as the respective amounts so paid; and

(ii) the names and addresses of persons deported from Afghanistan and at present detained in India with the amount of allowance paid to them?

**Mr. H. Weightman:** (i) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the 1914-18 War. The information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

(ii) There are no persons deported from Afghanistan who are detained in India under the orders of the Government of India. A number of Afghan refugees are, however, detained in Indian jails. A statement giving their names, places of detention and allowances paid to them is appended

*Statement showing names and places of detention of Afghan refugees detained in Indian jails and the allowances paid to them.*

S. No.	Name	Address	Allowance
1	Sardar Ghulam Ahmad . . .	Karwar sub-jail in	} Rs. 300 p. m.
2	Must. Shah Gul wife of (1)	Bombay. Presidency. do.	
3	Must. Mah Gul wife of (1)	do.	
4	Sardar Fazal Ahmad . . .	do.	Rs. 200 p. m.
5	Sardar Ali Mohammad . . .	do.	} Rs. 230 p. m.
6	Must. Mah Gul wife of (5)	do.	
7	Sardar Faqir Ahmad . . .	do.	Rs. 100 p. m.
8	Must. Shah Bano . . .	do.	Rs. 100 p. m.
9	Sardar Abdullah Jan . . .	Quetta Distt. Jail	} They have been detained very recently. No allowance yet sanctioned.
10	Sardar Mohd. Hassan . . .	do.	

#### ACCOUNTS RE GORAKHPUR LABOUR IN COAL MINES

**23. Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies 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 Mr. A. A. Waugh:** The question Nos. 23 and 24 will be answered by the Honourable the Labour Member on the appropriate day.

#### EXPENDITURE ON GORAKHPUR LABOUR IN COAL MINES

**†24. Mr. K. O. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies 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?

#### DISCONTINUED AND RESTORED PASSENGER TRAINS

**25. Mr. K. O. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement indicating under different Railway:

(i) the number of passenger trains that were discontinued during the war; and  
(ii) the number of trains indicated above that may have been restored?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 23.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (i) Information regarding the actual number of passenger trains discontinued during the War is not readily available, and could not be compiled without the expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the results to be achieved. Statistics maintained indicate, however, that upto November 1943, the train services reduced on Class I Railways involved a reduction of 68,911 train miles per day on the B. G. lines and 41,993 on the metre gauge lines, making a total of 110,904 train miles per day, equivalent to an overall reduction of 37 per cent. on the corresponding pre-war daily train mileage.

(ii) Up to the 1st January, 1946, Class I Railways had re-introduced or extended a total of 633 train services representing an additional daily train mileage of 38,107 on both Broad and Metre gauge. Similar figures for Class II Railways are 32 trains involving the addition of 1,210 train miles per day.

#### DISCONTINUED AND RESTORED RAILWAY LINES

**26. Mr. K. O. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing under different Railways:

(i) the sections of the Railway lines that had been removed during the war; and

(ii) which of the above sections have since been restored, or are proposed to be restored in the near future, and the programme adopted for the gradual restoration of such lines?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** A statement showing the information required is laid on the table of the House. None of the dismantled lines have yet been restored, but certain sections have been selected for "priority" in restoration and they are marked accordingly.

#### STATEMENT

##### *Railway lines dismantled during the war,*

Sections of railway lines	Whether restored or proposed to be restored in near future	Programme for gradual restoration	Remarks
<i>E. I. Railway</i>			
1. Dalmau—Daryapur . . .	No.		
2. Akbarpur—Tanda . . .	No.		
3. Bijnor—Chandpur Siau . . .	Proposed to be restored.	Priority.	
4. Utraithia—Sultanpur—Zafraabad . . .	do.		
5. Unao—Madhoganj—Balance . . .	do.	Priority.	
6. Auhadpur—Madhoganj . . .	No.		
7. Bhagalpur—Mandar Hill . . .	No.		
8. Tinpahar—Rajmahal . . .	No.		
9. Barabanki—Burhwal (third line) . . .	No.		
10. Burhwal—Bahramghat . . .	No.		
<i>B. A. Railway</i>			
11. Amaura—Chapai Nawabganj . . .	Proposed to be restored.	Priority.	
12. Moranhat—Khowanj . . .	do.		
13. Habiganj—Shaistaganj . . .	do.	Priority.	
14. Cinnamara—Titabar . . .	No.		
15. Gosaiganj—Kakilamukh Ghat . . .	No.		
<i>M. &amp; S. M. Railway.</i>			
16. Cocanada—Kotipalle . . .	No.		

Sections of Railway lines	Whether restored or proposed to be restored in near future	Programme for gradual restoration	Remarks
<i>S. I. Railway</i>			
17. Shoranur—Nilambur . . .	No.		
18. Modura—Bodinayakanur . . .	No.		
19. Morappur—Hosur . . .	No.		
20. Tirupattur—Krishnagiri . . .	No.		
<i>G. I. P. Railway</i>			
21. Cawnpore—Khairada . . .	Proposed to be restored.	Priority.	
22. Darwha—Pusad . . .	No.		
<i>B. N. Railway</i>			
23. Bobbili—Salur . . .	Proposed to be restored.		
24. Raipur Forest Tramway	No.		Belonged to the Govt. of O. P
<i>B. B. &amp; C. I. Railway.</i>			
25. Vasad—Kathana . . .	Proposed to be restored.		Either B. G. or N. G.
<i>N. W. Railway</i>			
26. Lyallpur—Jaranwala . . .	No.		
27. Fort Abbas—Kut-el-Imara . . .	Under consideration.		Belonged to the Bahawalnagar State.
28. Rohtak—Gohana—Panipat . . .	No.		
29. Mahmudkot—Ghazighat . . .	Under consideration.		
30. Nagrota—Jaginder Nagar . . .	Proposed to be restored.		
31. From mile 86 (near Zardalu) . . . to Bostan.	No.		

## CLOSED AND REOPENED RAILWAY STATIONS

27. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement indicating under different Railways:

- (i) the stations that were closed during the war; and
- (ii) which of them have since been opened or are proposed to be opened in the near future?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have called for the information from the principal railways, on receipt of which I shall lay a statement on the Table.

## UNLIT PASSENGER COACHES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY (METRE GAUGE)

28. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement in respect of the metre gauge section of the Bengal Assam Railway, showing the total number of passenger train services that were run during the months of October, November and December, 1945, separately, and indicating such of the said passenger trains as were not equipped with lighting arrangements in the passenger coaches during each of the said months?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I am afraid it is not possible to answer the question in the form in which it has been put as no numerical record of lights in individual passenger coaches on each of the passenger train services is maintained. The B. A. Railway M. G. section runs a total of over 4,000 passenger train services of all types per month and though all passenger



coaches are equipped with lighting arrangements, there was and still is an acute shortage of bulbs. The actual supply and fitment of these bulbs in passenger coaches must vary from day to day.

2. For the Honourable Member's information however I give below a summary of the situation, as it exists, the main causes of the unsatisfactory lighting arrangements and the prospects of improvements in the future. During the last two years the very high incidence of theft, especially on the B. A. Railway, and a very difficult supply situation have made it impossible to maintain a satisfactory standard of lighting in trains. In peace time the B. A. Railway M. G. section normally replaced approximately 1,000 lamps per year against every 1,000 originally fitted. The B. A. Railway have estimated that the replacement of lamps attributable to thefts alone has amounted to 12 times that number. Efforts to restore normal lighting have included measures such as running of escorts and the installation of anti-theft fittings. Protection cages are being fitted as quickly as possible.

3. The Railway Board made arrangements to import by air 10,000 bulbs in the middle of 1945 especially for the B. A. Railway. The requirements for the financial year, however, have not yet been met in full.

4. The general situation is now showing signs of improvement as there has been an increase in indigenous production and also in supplies from the U. K. and U.S.A. We hope to obtain 4 lakhs of lamps from indigenous sources during 1946.

#### PRODUCTION CESS ON COAL DESPATCHES

29. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of production cess on coal despatches realised up-to-date;
- (b) how long the cess is proposed to be levied;
- (c) the different heads under which expenditure is undertaken out of the cess fund;
- (d) the total amount spent so far under the said heads; and
- (e) whether the representatives of the trade have any voice in controlling the administration of the cess fund?

**The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh:** (a) Total receipts as booked in the accounts up to the end of December 1945 were Rs. 283 lakhs. Figures of receipts after that date are not yet available.

(b) It is intended to levy the cess so long as the need for special measures to improve the production, marketing and distribution of coal continues. The position is kept under constant review.

(c) The main heads under which expenditure is incurred out of the Fund are: bonuses to colliery owners on increased production, deficits on schemes for the provision of colliery labour and the additional administration charges relating to the Coal Commissioner's organisation, incurred subsequent to 31st March 1944.

(d) Total expenditure as booked in the accounts up to the end of December 1945 was Rs. 138 lakhs. Deficits on schemes for the provision of colliery labour from April to December 1945 are not included in this figure as expenditure under this head is adjusted at the end of the financial year.

(e) While the fund is administered by Government, the views of the trade and of the other interests represented on the Coal Control Board are considered and taken into account.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

##### REFIXING BOUNDARIES OF BENGAL, BIHAR AND ASSAM

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Leader of the House been drawn to the news item published in the *Hindustan Standard* of the 29th January, 1946, to the effect that the recent visits of the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief to the Eastern Frontiers of Assam were connected with the creation of an Eastern Frontier Province which will also affect Bengal, that this plan will involve

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partition of Bengal, Sylhet, Cachar and also that the eastern part of Bengal will form a Muslim majority Province under the name of East Bengal?

(b) Is it a fact that some parts of Bihar will be added to west Bengal to form a Hindu majority Province?

(c) Is it a fact that the Assam valley plains with some portions of North Bengal will make Assam Province and that Darjeeling, Jal Paiguri and Siliguri will form a separate territory?

(d) Is it a fact that *Times of Assam* is strongly opposing the proposed scheme?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a), (b), (c) and (d). The report referred to by the Honourable Member, which I have not however seen, is purely imaginary. Government have no such proposals under consideration.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Thank you.

#### PURCHASE OF TEMPORARY BUILDINGS BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) If his attention has been drawn to the article under the heading "Stop the Loot" in the last column of the 1st page of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 4th February, 1946;

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, whether it is a fact that His Majesty's Government is pressing the Government of India to purchase the two buildings mentioned in the article; if so, whether the Government of India has taken a decision regarding that;

(c) the value of the buildings at present;

(d) the cost of the buildings to His Majesty's Government;

(e) the price at which these buildings are offered; and

(f) if the two buildings have only to be pulled down and are not fit for any use?

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

(b) No. the Government of India themselves have decided to purchase the buildings for housing their officers. The terms of purchase are now under consideration.

(c) No firm figure can be given as the estimates of the present value of the buildings, which depend on several factors, necessarily differ.

(d) Rs. 25,58,000.

(e) Rs. 21,31,667.

(f) The buildings are being occupied by the staff of the Far Eastern Bureau as well as by the Government of India officers and it cannot be said that they are not fit for any use. They are however temporary buildings and will be demolished when they are no longer required by Government.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** For how many years are they expected to last?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I do not know. I suppose it might be estimated between 8 to 10 years.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Is it voluntary purchase or forced?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Voluntary. Why forced? If Government needs them they have to purchase them.

**Mr. Mann Subedar:** On what basis is the value fixed? Is it cost of depreciated value or knock down value?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** The value is not fixed. The matter is under negotiation.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** How many years of life from the 8 to 10 years have already expired?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** They were constructed during the war and I do not know the exact date at the moment.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the demand for the purchase of these buildings come before the House?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Why? It is an administrative act.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** If they were constructed at the beginning of the war and the life is 8 to 10 years and they are to exist three years more, why does the Honourable Member think it necessary to spend Rs. 25 lakhs?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I have said the matter is under consideration. No figure has been fixed.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I do not quite follow the Honourable Member's last but one answer. He said something about an administrative act which did not require the sanction of this House.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** I did not say that. I said it was an administrative act for which the House need not be consulted. The money will be provided for in the Budget.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I want to know if the money is sanctioned.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** It will come up for sanction.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** In what form are you bringing it up?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** That is a matter for the Finance Member.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I want him to answer it. It is no use the Honourable Member taking up that high-handed attitude and saying it is an administrative act. He has got to answer us.

**Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Answer.

(No answer: Interruptions.)

**Mr. President:** Order, order. We will now take up the adjournment motions.

## MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. President:** There is an adjournment motion (No. 96) in the name of Mr. Frank R. Anthony who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely,

"To censure the Government for the action taken by the Railway authorities in directing the compulsory re-enrolment of Anglo-Indians in the Auxiliary Force."

**Mr. Frank R. Anthony** (Nominated Non-Official): As the matter is now the subject of discussion between me and the authorities, I do not wish to move it.

(Interruptions.)

**Mr. President:** Order, order. There is another motion to censure the Government for directing the compulsory re-enrolment of Anglo-Indians in the . . .

**Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** That is one and the same. There is only one motion.

**Mr. President:** I am sorry. There is only one.

## DELHI POLYTECHNIC STRIKE

**Mr. President:** The next adjournment motion (No. 97) is in the name of Shri Satya Narayan Sinha in connection with the strike of 758 students of the Delhi Polytechnic. The motion of the Honourable Sardar Mangal Singh has already been kept over. So, at this stage, this falls through.

Adjournment motion No. 86 in the name of Diwan Chaman Lal in the same connection also falls through.

## REVERSIONS FROM THE I.A.M.C. TO THE INDIAN MEDICAL DEPTT.

**Mr. President:** There is another adjournment motion (No. 99) in the name of Mr. Frank R. Anthony who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely,

"To censure the Government for the action of the Military Medical authorities with regard to the Indian Medical Department in compelling them to revert from the I.A.M.C. with the intention of ultimately retrenching most of them."

**Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** I would like to hear the Honourable Member concerned.

**Mr. P. Mason** (Government of India: Nominated Official): The old I.M.D. has been held in abeyance during the war and the members of it have been given the opportunity of taking emergency commissions either in the I.M.S. in which case they are seconded to the I.A.M.C. or direct into the I.A.M.C. In both cases they were told they would be given an opportunity at the end of the war of being considered for a regular commission, and if not fitted for a regular commission they would either revert to the original status in the I.M.D. or they could accept the normal terms offered to an emergency commission officer. At present, however, the whole position of the Medical Services in the future is under consideration. It is not clear at present whether there will be an I.M.D. or an I.M.S. in the permanent arrangements that will be made. It is therefore impossible at present to offer them the chance which they were told they would have of a regular commission. But under the release regulations any man when his turn comes up for release has the opportunity of deferring his release and can sign on for one or two years more. If any of these men have not taken the choice of deferring their release, it has been assumed by the authorities that they do not wish to be considered for a regular commission. There is no possibility of forcing them to revert to the I.M.D. because the I.M.D. does not at present exist except in abeyance. I do not therefore understand why any case of compulsion is supposed to have arisen. But I have had discussions with the Honourable Member on this subject and I will call a meeting with him and the authorities concerned and try to explain his difficulties fully to him and I hope that in that case he will agree it is not a matter of urgent public importance.

**Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** There are two matters which I want clarified. It is my information that members of the I.M.D. of all communities have been told they must revert or accept release immediately. There is implied compulsion in these terms: with the result that men who have been served with these orders have reverted. They have not been given the option of deferring. If my Honourable friend will give me an assurance that every man has a right to defer his release. . . .

**Mr. P. Mason:** Yes.

**Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** Many of these men have been told that they must revert or be released. Several of them have thus been compelled to revert.

The next point is that I have been given to understand that the men who have been compelled to revert will be ultimately retrenched. Is that the policy of the Government?

**Mr. P. Mason:** I certainly cannot give any assurance about the future of the I.M.D. As I said, that is under consideration. I can state that every officer, every individual whatever his category, has the opportunity of deferring his release and if any of them have not deferred their release, they must have misunderstood the regulations.

**Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** Sir, under the circumstances I withdraw my motion.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member does not press his motion.

# REPATRIATION FACILITIES TO INDIAN LABOURERS ON SIAM-BURMA RAILWAY

**Mr. President:** The next adjournment motion (No. 99) is by Seth Govind Das regarding:

"The failure of the Government of India to take necessary steps to look after the welfare and facilities for repatriation of thousands of Indian labourers who were taken by the Japanese from Malaya and Burma to Siam to work on Siam-Burma death railway."

Will the Honourable Member state what is the urgency in this matter?

**Seth Govind Das** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Because, Sir, a message appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of yesterday from Colombo. According to this message. Mr. Aney had been to these places and he has stated in a report to the Government of India that the conditions of Indians who are still there is as bad as it has been before. About 88,000 to one lakh Indian labourers were taken from Burma and Malaya to Siam by the Japanese and out of those only 35,000 are surviving and the condition of those 35,000 is so bad that it is said that in the camps at Bangkok and at Kanchanpuri, where Indian workers were living arrangements were being made for providing medical and food facilities. They were clad almost in rags and were badly in need of clothing, especially warm clothes. In Indo-China also the Indian community number 3,000, mostly residents of Saigon and its suburbs and were anxious to return to India and proper facilities are not being given to them for returning. Even after the cessation of hostilities and even today, their condition, according to Mr. Aney, representative of Government of India in Colombo, is so serious that I want to censure the Government, as nothing is being done for their welfare. They are even today in need of clothes, in need of medicine, in need of food and they want to come back to India and proper facilities are not being provided for them. Therefore I feel that the matter is one of urgent public importance and the statement of Mr. Aney is most recent: it appeared only yesterday in the papers.

**Mr. President:** May I know from the Honourable Member for Government what the position is?

**Mr. R. N. Banerjee** (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): Sir, I venture to think that this matter is not only not of urgent importance but that there has been no failure on the part of the Government to take the necessary steps. I feel, Sir, that the very press message which has inspired this motion and from which the Honourable Member has read out extracts, and some of those very extracts which he has read out, establish my case that the Government have already initiated measures for the welfare of these Indian labourers and facilities for their repatriation. This message purports to be a Press statement made by Mr. Aney, who is our representative in Ceylon and who was specially selected to represent the Government of India at the peace negotiations with Siam. Immediately after the signing of the peace treaty at Singapore, our Government sent Mr. Aney to pay a special visit to those areas in Siam. Mr. Aney has given us an idea of what he has seen there. He has also stated that the report which he has submitted gives details of his findings to the Government of India. Mr. Aney himself has said and it was also read out by the Honourable Member that in camps at Bangkok and Kanchanpuri where Indian workers were living arrangements were being made for providing medical and food facilities. All these arrangements have been made as desired by the Government of India. We specially sent Mr. Aney to those places. I think, Sir, the House will agree that without obtaining the actual facts no arrangements could be made for providing facilities for the welfare of those Indian labourers. Government sent Mr. Aney specially and his report has come to us. That report is at present under the consideration of the Government and Government will take such other action as they consider necessary after reading the report and in the light of Mr. Aney's recommendations. I venture to think that there has been no failure on the part of the Government of India in this matter. The Honourable Member's allegation is not established. Apart from that the press and the

public in this country have known for many months the fact that a large number of Indian labourers had been taken by the Japanese from Malaya and Siam for this railway.

**Mr. President:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether steps are being taken for their repatriation?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken for their repatriation and I may mention that some of these Indian labourers have also trekked back to Malaya and as early as December 13th, 1945 we issued a communique on the report of Mr. Chettur, our representative in Malaya and there also we said that many of the Indians were anxious to return to India for rest and recuperation. Immediate return of very large numbers will not be feasible owing to the shortage of shipping. The British Military Administration have agreed to take action to facilitate their early return and non-official committees are also being set up at Saigon and Kanchanpuri to advise regarding suitable priorities for their return. Some of these labourers are included in this lot too.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General):** Mr. President, I fear the statement which the Honourable Member has made in the House is most unsatisfactory in this respect. Here are 35,000 Indians suffering in that part of the world and the Honourable Member feels that it is quite enough that Mr. Chettur and Mr. Aney should tour and send a report to the Government and that the Government should continue to read and examine the report while these people are suffering. The point is what have they done to bring these people home? No answer has been forthcoming. The Honourable Member says that the Government are examining this report. The press has got it and they have not even read that report. He was saying that the Government are reading that report and considering the measures that are to be taken. The measures they ought to take are perfectly simple. They ought to arrange for the repatriation of these people at the earliest possible opportunity. I should like to hear what he has got to say on that.

**Mr. President:** For how long is the matter likely to be considered?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** The report was received only about 2 weeks ago. I believe Mr. Aney returned here sometime during the last month; so I do not think we have taken an unduly long time.

**Seth Govind Das:** Sir, the Honourable Member just read out from a government communique issued some time in December that the Indians there are very anxious to come back; and now three months have passed and we want to know how many Indians since December, have been repatriated. The cold weather has passed: they were suffering on account of want of clothes: they had no warm clothing and they are still there. I want to know, within these three months since that communique was issued, how many people from that land have been given facilities to come back to this country and why warm clothing and other clothes have not been provided for them, in spite of three months of cold weather?

**Mr. E. N. Banerjee:** That refers mainly to the Indians who had already got back to Malaya from that area.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural):** We know the ways of the Government; it is the labourers who are now under discussion: it is not quite clear how many of them have been given a chance to come back to India: how many of them trekked to Malaya we do not know and the Government of India does not know: but out of that number how many of them were given a chance by Government to come back to this country. It is a very important thing. Generally, we know that Government gives the last priority to labourers when there is a question of providing shipping facilities and other facilities also; therefore it is most necessary that Government should be taken to task for having neglected the welfare of these 85,000 labourers in Assam, because they happen to be poor.

**Mr. President:** It appears that we are not quite sure about the facts: at any rate some steps are being taken: the exact extent of the difficulty, which

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is there, in providing facilities is not very clear to me yet. I believe the real difficulty is about shipping for repatriation. That seems to be the prominent difficulty. The matter is such that I do not consider it necessary to give my consent, as I do not think any further matters can be brought out in discussion, over and above what has already been said.

**Mr. President:** The next motion is from Khan Abdul Ghani Khan to discuss the cloth famine in the North West Frontier Province. May I know when the Honourable Member gave this notice to the office?

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan** (North-West Frontier Province: General): This morning.

**Mr. President:** At what time?

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:** At about 11-30 A.M.

**Mr. President:** It cannot be considered: he has to present it before the commencement of the business.

**Khan Abdul Ghani Khan:** Will it be considered tomorrow?

**Mr. President:** He might have given it tomorrow rather than at 11-30 today.

**Mr. President:** Then there is another motion by Mr. Ayyangar—to discuss the proposal by the Government of India to accede to the request of the Nizam of Hyderabad to grant a corridor to East Coast through some districts of the Madras Presidency in the North.

There are many difficulties in the way of this motion. The first is that the notice was received at 12-15.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I thought there were so many adjournment motions coming up and that this will come on tomorrow. It is an important matter.

**Mr. President:** It is an important matter but still it was not given in due time and the Honourable Member cannot be helped in that respect. The other difficulty is that this will require the sanction of the Governor General: so in any case we need not go into the question whether it is urgent or not.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I shall apply for the necessary permission.

**Mr. President:** Now comes the adjournment motion that we have been holding over so far.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth** (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Before we leave the matter that was under discussion, on the ruling that you gave just now with regard to notice being given for another day, I must state what the practice has been so far. Any notice coming before 11 can be taken up that day itself; but supposing it is given later that day and we want to discuss it tomorrow, there is a whole day's notice and it must be accepted. I think my Honourable friend was right when he asked that it should be taken up tomorrow. If he had insisted that it should be taken up today, I could understand the objection; otherwise the matter becomes very difficult for us.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Both myself and my friend want our notice to be taken up tomorrow.

**Mr. President:** I do not know that; as I say, under the Standing Orders, notice has to be given before the commencement of the day's business.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** That is for today.

**Mr. President:** And as for the distinction that the Honourable Member seeks to make—any notice will always be before the commencement of another day.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Our difficulty is this: today you have ruled them out. Will it be all right for us to give notice of the same adjournment motion tomorrow? That is the point.



**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member is raising a problematical question. I do not wish to answer it.

**Mr. Manu Subedar** (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): If a notice is given any time after 11, it should be treated as a notice for tomorrow: that is the only point.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** You will remember, Sir, that after you disposed of about 80 adjournment motions out of the 100 motions of which notice was given, which were given long before the 21st January when the session opened,—they were not given on that day and they ought not to come later—therefore I have given this notice in advance for tomorrow.

**Mr. President:** Any way, so far as they go, they will fall through today. I will see what can be done in the future.

**Mr. President:** Then comes Sardar Mangal Singh's motion No. 70. He is not here; so that motion also drops out. It has ceased to be urgent in view of the previous motion.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena** (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): But the Honourable Member has not given any assurance?

**Seth Govind Das:** Sir, the strike is still going on and as long as the strike does not end, I think it will continue to be very much a matter of recent occurrence. Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha has given notice that the strike has not yet ended.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** May I suggest this? In the first place I cannot go behind your ruling—you have already ruled out one motion and I do not wish to question what you have said about this. But in view of the fact that the strike is still on, may I request the Honourable Mr. John Sargent to make a statement on the subject and just tell us to what extent Government is prepared to go to meet the points which he knows were likely to be made during the debate. I want to specify the points in as narrow a scope as possible. Is the Government prepared to make sure that the diplomas of the Polytechnic will be recognised by the Federal Public Service Commission? If that point is made clear, I am perfectly certain that it will go a long way to satisfy those who feel that they have a grievance.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** Apart from that, Sir, I do not know whether this motion has been ruled out or whether we are discussing it, because there was my friend Mr. Satya Narain Sinha's motion which was ruled out because this has been held up for discussion. Now when we have reached it, as the Mover is not here, this motion is also going to be ruled out. That means that the House is deprived of the chance to discuss it. The whole thing was postponed because we thought that some compromise talk was going on and that nothing would be lost if it was put off. But I feel certain that there must be some discussion about the matter or we should wait until Sardar Mangal Singh comes back. I do not know if there is any other way out: otherwise Mr. Satya Narain Sinha's motion should be allowed.

**Mr. President:** I am afraid with all the sympathy I have for the students and for the situation created, I have to go by the rules of the House. The position here was this: a motion was given notice of by Sardar Mangal Singh: an identical motion was given a few days after by Diwan Chaman Lall. Notice of the same motion was given after a few days by the Honourable Member, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha. As I said yesterday, while giving my ruling, an adjournment motion is essentially an attempt to take up for discussion something different from the original order of the day on the ground of the importance of the matter. And it is not only the importance of the matter but its urgency also. It could always be argued that as the strike proceeds from day to day and takes a longer time, the matter becomes more and more acute and more and more urgent. But so far as the Rules of the House are concerned, to my mind, the urgency, at the very first start does not continue if motions could be tabled on the same subject day after day. The essence of the whole thing is that there must be an earliest possible



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opportunity on which the discussion should take place. The subsequent motions, therefore, under the Rules and the previous rulings from the Chair, were obviously out of order and could not be admitted. There was no urgency in them, there being a previous motion. That is why, when yesterday this point was touched, instead of giving priority to that motion, we said that we had better defer the discussion of the earlier motion, so that there may be no deviations so far as the precedents of the House go. If the motion today falls through, it is not the fault of the Chair. . . .

**Mr. Mann Subedar:** Before you give your ruling, Sir, may I say that Dr. John Sargent was about to make a statement.

**Mr. President:** So, if an Honourable Member considers a matter to be of such an urgent nature that he gives notice of an adjournment motion, then he has to remain present in the House. It falls through essentially because something which the Honourable Member should have done has not been done and he has failed to do it.

So far as the convenience of the Members is concerned, however I may desire to meet it, I do not know how many motions will have to be adjourned and how many times. It will be a greater inconvenience to the House to follow the practice of adjourning things to suit the convenience of Members. The better practice would be that Members should make it a point to remain present after having given notice of an adjournment motion. Therefore, if all that is agreed to, the only difficulty which I am now feeling is that there being no motion before the House, on what subject could a statement be permitted?

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** May I say one word, Sir? It is under the special circumstances which unfortunately exist in this particular case that I am making that request. Because of this complex procedure that has been gone through and various considerations were before you in adjourning one motion to await the result of the negotiations, etc.,—I do not wish to go into the whole subject—, it is for that reason that I am asking your permission to make a statement which ought to satisfy the House too. Ordinarily, I do not think I would be justified in asking for a statement from any Member on the Treasury Benches when there is no motion before the House. In this case a motion was before the House. In fact, three motions were before the House. The actual circumstances of the case are that the strike still continues; it is really a recurring cause. I did not raise that point when you were ruling out Mr. Satya Narain's motion, otherwise I might have easily got up and said: it is a matter of urgency and of urgent public importance for the simple reason that the strike is a recurring cause and it continues from moment to moment. I may give a notice of adjournment motion today and I may give a notice of another adjournment motion tomorrow if the strike continues. So long as the strike continues, the urgency is still there. But I did not raise that point. In view of all these facts, if I am asking for a statement, I do not think I am asking for too much.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall** (Leader of the House): May I, Sir, make a suggestion which, I think, would meet the wishes of the House. Government are quite anxious to make a statement. The only question is, how can we do so under the Rules? I suggest that the best way to do it will be for the Honourable Member to put down a short notice question and if you, Sir, allow some latitude in replying to that question, then the whole matter will be satisfactorily dealt with within the Rules.

**Mr. President:** In fact, I myself was going to make that suggestion. If I permit a statement to be made now, I will be creating a precedent that a statement can be made even though a particular matter is not before the House. I do not want to create a precedent of that type. The best thing will be to put a short notice question, which will be answered at the next meeting of the House.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** I agree to the suggestion which the Leader of the House has made and we will put down a short notice question.

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam** (Secretary, Health Department): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects dealt with in the Department of Health during the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47."

**Mr. President:** Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects dealt with in the Department of Health during the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47."

Will the Honourable Member state what the subjects are on which he expects the Committee to advise?

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam:** I think the subjects are given in the Memorandum which has been circulated to Members giving the subjects dealt with by each Department.

**Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (Delhi: General): Since the motion is before the House, I should like to invite the attention of the Members of the Treasury Benches and other Honourable Members sitting on Government Benches that every time they make a motion of that nature they ought always to place before the House some sort of a summary of the kind of proceedings which have taken place in connection with these Committees. We know nothing about it. It is easy for them to say that you want a Standing Committee to be elected, but what is the Standing Committee going to do? What are going to be its functions and what is going to be its scope? The kind of report that I am asking for should be normally submitted with every proposal of this nature, so that we may be able either to read it or, while the motion is before the House, we may say, "Add such and such functions to the functions of the Committee which you have placed before the House". But this kind of blank and bald proposal is hardly acceptable to us.

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth** (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, on this point I can give some information, as I had something to do with these Committees in the last Assembly. The rules provided that the meetings are to be held very often, and, every time a meeting is held, the proceedings will be circulated to Members. I think last year the proceedings were circulated. What I suggest is that these proceedings should be re-circulated once again at the time of making this motion.

That will help Honourable Members to a great extent because probably Honourable Members would have forgotten what took place. In order to avoid all waste of time, I suggest that when an Honourable Member of the Government makes his motion, he should say what the committee is about and give details of its work.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque** (Commerce Member): I may draw the attention of the House to Appendix V which gives the scope and functions of these Standing Committees. I may add, as my friend referred to other Departments, that in view of the special circumstances last year, in some of the Departments, at least I know of some, it was not possible to call these meetings for reasons which the House is quite aware of. The scope and functions and working of these Standing Committees is practically the same as what is given in Appendix V, subject to some of the changes which were made at the instance of my Honourable friend Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth last year. A new rule has been added by which the proceedings of the Standing Committees are circulated.

**Mr. President:** It appears the difficulty has been about the subjects dealt with in the Departments.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I take it the subjects dealt with in each Department are before the Assembly. Before the Assembly begins, the Legislative Assembly Department always takes care to circularise to Honourable Members the subjects dealt with in the various departments. Otherwise questions cannot be addressed to different Departments.

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam:** I may explain that the Department of Health came into existence on 1st September last year and there has been no previous committee relating to this Department.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I did not follow what the Honourable Member said.

**Mr. President:** He says the Department came into existence very recently and it has yet to evolve.

The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects dealt with in the Department of Health during the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47."

The motion was adopted.

### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE INDIAN CENTRAL TOBACCO COMMITTEE

**Sir Pheroze Kharegat** (Secretary, Agriculture Department): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two persons to represent consumers on the Indian Central Tobacco Committee."

Sir, I may explain that the Central Tobacco Committee was established by a Resolution of the Government, dated 10th April 1945. It has held only one meeting so far in which it has laid down its own rules and regulations. But the committee has not yet been fully constituted because of the absence of members of the legislature and that is why this motion is being made at present.

**Mr. President:** Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two persons to represent consumers on the Indian Central Tobacco Committee."

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I learn from the Honourable Member himself that this Committee had met only once and the wonder of it is that the very first time it had met, it had taken a wrong decision in regard to the location of its headquarters. Sir, in the whole country, there is one district which produces the largest quantity of tobacco. It has also the largest area under tobacco and that is my own district, Guntur. There was a suggestion made by one of the Members that its headquarters should be located in that district and I learn that one Member had even offered to place a house at the disposal of the Committee. But instead of accepting that offer, the Committee as well as the Government had decided to locate its headquarters in Bombay, where I learn they are finding it very hard to find any accommodation for the office of the Committee at all. It seems they even offered to pay Rs. 1,000 a month and even more by way of rent for office accommodation. They are unable to get any accommodation. What is more, it will be much more difficult to find housing accommodation for the staff to live in. I find that this Committee has already started badly. I do not know what work it is going to do. If this Committee is at all to discharge its functions satisfactorily, then its headquarters should be located not in a place where no tobacco is grown, but in a place where the maximum quantity of tobacco is grown for any district or for that matter for the whole of India. I think one of the functions of this committee is to encourage research in the production of tobacco and also in the production of various other things which are manufactured out of tobacco. One of the biggest cigarette manufacturing concerns is located in Guntur district. Therefore, I submit the headquarters of this committee ought to be located in Guntur district, since this committee has not yet incurred any expenditure in buildings or in permanent structures in Bombay. I hope the Government will keep these considerations in mind and see that its decision is changed so far as its headquarters will be located in Guntur and not in Bombay.

**Shri Sri Prakasa** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I wish to say a few words.

**Mr. President:** Does this Motion require any discussion?

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Yes, Sir, we are all against smoking.

**Mr. President:** If Honourable Members are really serious to continue the debate, I have no objection. I do not mind taking the Motion over after Lunch. Otherwise, I may put the motion just now and adjourn for Lunch, as today is Friday.

**Mr. Muhammad Nauman** (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): I want to speak on this Motion.

**Mr. President:** In that case, I will adjourn the House for Lunch.

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

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** Sir, we were discussing the motion about the Tobacco Committee. My Honourable friend Prof. Ranga was worried about headquarters. I thought the headquarters of tobacco was the smoker's mouth, but if he wanted some other headquarters I do not know where he wants to establish them. Moreover, I was rather worried when I learnt that the purpose of this committee was to encourage tobacco smoking. If that is the purpose of the committee my feeling must be against the establishment of this committee, because I do think that smoking is a bad habit, and it is doing a great deal of harm all round. It is spreading and we find even little boys smoking all over the place. I am sure my Honourable friend, Sir Pheroze Kharegat, who is himself a non-smoker like myself, would not like to be associated with any committee which encourages a bad habit. I do not know if my Honourable friend has any bad habits; I have known him for over 30 years now I know he had no bad habits at Cambridge; whether he has acquired any since then I do not know. But in any case even if he has some bad habits, he would not like other folks to have them. I hope he will be able to give us some assurance that this committee will not encourage any smoking and particularly will help in stamping out juvenile smoking, because juvenile smoking is an increasing danger and it has to be put down. I expect his help and the help of his committee in this particular matter.

**Mr. President:** I do not think any further debate is necessary on the issues which the Honourable Members have raised.

The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two persons to represent consumers on the Indian Central Tobacco Committee."

The motion was adopted.

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR HOME DEPARTMENT

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne** (Home Member): Sir, I move:

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

**Mr. President:** Motion moved:

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

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha** (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That in the original motion for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted."

**Mr. President:** Amendment moved:

"That in the original motion for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted."

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** Sir, I accept the amendment.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I learn that this committee has not met at all since it was constituted last year. This department is a very important one, specially for the reason that due to its good offices several thousands, if not lakhs, of us have been sent to jail, both through the courts after having been convicted and without the courts also as detenus. This department has never been held by an Indian so far, and I think the Secretaryship also has been confined to Englishmen. So it is no exaggeration to say that it has been protected by a sort of purdah so far as the Indian public is concerned. This House is naturally always anxious to know as much about the activities of this department as possible, and the only time that a committee came to be constituted—and that was last year—the committee was not given an opportunity of meeting and trying to know anything at all about this department. And even when we put questions here in this House the Honourable Member and his predecessors have made a habit of giving only laconic and cryptic answers; and if at all they try to be a bit expressive, only their shoulders are given the privilege of jumping up and nothing more; and short notice questions have very little chance with this department. Therefore it is most necessary that this House should have an assurance that the Honourable Member concerned with this department will call this committee as frequently as possible, take it into his confidence in regard not only to detailed questions that may be coming up for discussion or for decision within his department but also in regard to the general policies and programmes that this department contemplates from time to time. We learnt only the other day that even in regard to recruitment, promotion, etc., in these various services, specially in the Indian Civil Service and the other Imperial Services, it is this department that takes the most important decisions and also makes the most important recommendations to the Secretary of State for India. Therefore, Sir, I hope that the Honourable Member will at least on this occasion go out of his way to give an assurance to this House which will be popular.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it is nothing out of the way to ask the Honourable Member to lay before the House a statement of what he proposes to do by way of taking advice from this committee. You will find, Sir, in Appendix V of the Manual the functions of the various Standing Committees, but unfortunately the Home Department Standing Committee does not find a place there. We naturally expect that with regard to all standing committees that have been hitherto appointed or are in course of appointment or for which motions have been or are being introduced in the Assembly, the Members in charge of these motions will make known to the House what its functions are. On pages 103 and 104 of the Manual, for instance, you find the constitution and functions and also rules of business for the Standing Committee on Roads and Finance Sub-Committee. Likewise, what he intends to do with respect to the committee, what matters he intends to place before them for advice, what constitutes a quorum, etc.—these are all matters on which elucidation is necessary, and this House is entitled as a matter of right to have a statement from the Honourable Member.

**The Honourable Sir John Thorne:** With regard to my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga's complaint that a Standing Committee had been in existence and it did not meet, he has the advantage of me in having been a member of the last Assembly whereas I was not, but I understand that the Standing Committee for the Home Department was elected very near the end of March last. I know from the papers I have seen that my predecessor was anxious to have a meeting of the Standing Committee as soon as possible after that, but I find nothing on record as to why a meeting was not called. I think perhaps it may have been on account of a familiar phenomenon in the early days of the hot

weather in Delhi that migration takes place away from Delhi but I am not sure of that.

As regards the subjects which will be laid before the Standing Committee, as you know, Sir, it is governed by Rule 7 of the Legislative Department notification, dated the 5th of March 1945. I am afraid I cannot at this moment be more precise as to the subjects that will be laid. That is a matter I am examining and as soon as I have formed a tentative conclusion it might be of advantage I think to discuss it with the gentlemen who may be elected to the Standing Committee. But I do see some difficulty in publishing or laying on the table any too detailed or specific statement because, as I understand it, subjects may, from time to time, arise if not foreseen, and it would perhaps be a mistake to have a list which would not permit of subjects being raised at short notice. But I can promise the House that although as regards the letter of procedure I can make no definite statement at this stage, that the purpose of the setting up of this Standing Committee will certainly be observed by me in spirit. I must, however, utter one caveat about that: I know that my Honourable friends opposite think that I spend all my time deciding who should go to jail and devising a ban which will put a number of people into jails, but actually the day to day work of the Home Department is something much less exciting and which I am afraid the Standing Committee may even find at times boring. There are a great number of subjects on some of which I think the opinion of Members of this House will be very useful, but I cannot promise that they will all be as exciting as my friends opposite seem to expect.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That in the original motion for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO HEJAZ

**Mr. B. N. Banerjee** (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five Muslim members to serve on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz, for the unexpired portion of the life of the Committee constituted on the 1st April, 1944, and due to expire on the 31st March 1947."

Sir, this is a very old Standing Committee of this House and the main function of the Committee is to advise Government on all matters connected with the Haj pilgrimage. One special feature of this Committee is that its term is for a period of three years. That was decided sometime ago with a view to maintaining continuity and enabling Government to have full advantage of the experience of the Members of the Committee of the actual running of the Haj pilgrimage.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five Muslim members to serve on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz, for the unexpired portion of the life of the Committee constituted on the 1st April, 1944, and due to expire on the 31st March 1947."

The motion was adopted.

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

	Date for nomination	Date for election
1. Standing Committee for the Department of Health.	13-2-1946	18-2-1946
2. Indian Central Tobacco Committee . . . . .	13-2-1946	18-2-1946
3. Standing Committee for the Home Department.	13-2-1946	19-2-1946
4. Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to Hejaz	13-2-1946	19-2-1946

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

### INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Mr. President:** The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion moved by the Honourable Sir Azizul Huque, namely, that the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, be taken into consideration.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque** (Commerce Member): Sir, I do not want to make a reply at this stage, but in order to save the time of the House, I might say that after consulting the different sections of the House, I will be prepared to have a Select Committee provided it is possible to have the report of the Select Committee by the 14th February 1946. If that is agreed to, I would also suggest that the following Members of the old Select Committee—viz., Mr. Satya Narain Sinha, Mr. Ishaq Seth, and Mr. Gwilt of the three different parties—may be included in the Select Committee.

**Mr. President:** There is an amendment by the Honourable Mr. Jaffer.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I am prepared to accept it.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer** (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): 14th February is too early. If the Honourable Member would agree, ten days' time will be all right.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Sir, I may point out that I do not mind even three weeks or one month, but as I have already explained I would like to finish with this as soon as possible so that there is enough time left to consider the other Bill which is far more important. I am sure this will not take much time. So I think my friend would do well to accept it.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Yes, it is agreed.

**Mr. President:** Agreed to the 14th also? Then another amendment in place of the one moved by Mr. Jaffer will have to be moved because there seems to be some changes in the names suggested.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha** (Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadan): There is an amendment in my name.

**Mr. President:** When did the Honourable Member give it?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Yes, it is in substitution.

**Mr. President:** Now that other names are coming in, and the dates are also going to be changed, will it not be better to withdraw this amendment and move another giving the agreed names and dates?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I will ask Mr. Vaidyanathan to move it if the House agrees to that.

**Mr. President:** What will be the names? They will have to be checked.



**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have given him the names and the date.

**Mr. President:** Are they agreed?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I have put it to them and there seems to be an agreement.

**Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan** (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That the following names be added to the names that are already before you."

**Mr. President:** I am afraid the form will not be quite in order. I will read the original amendment and then as the occasion arises other names will be suggested. I take it that Mr. Jaffer will withdraw his amendment after this.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** All right.

**Mr. President:** The amendment is:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Honourable the Commerce Member, the Honourable the Law Member, Messrs. L. S. Vaidyanathan, Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, T. Chapman-Mortimer, Ali Asghar Khan, Pandit Govind Malaviya, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer, and the original names."

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I do not find Mr. Jaffer's name.

**Mr. President:** I had read Mr. Jaffer's name. In place of Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Pandit Malaviya comes in because that seems to be agreed. What are the other names?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Mr. Leslie Gwilt and Shri Satya Narayan Sinha.

**Mr. President:** "With instructions to report by 14th and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting shall be five."

That may be moved by the Honourable Member.

**Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan:** Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Commerce Member, the Honourable the Law Member, Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. Ali Asghar Khan, Pandit Govind Malaviya, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Mr. Leslie Gwilt, and Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, with instructions to report by the 14th February 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

**Mr. President:** Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Commerce Member, the Honourable the Law Member, Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. Ali Asghar Khan, Pandit Govind Malaviya, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Mr. Leslie Gwilt, and Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, with instructions to report by the 14th February 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Will Mr. Jaffer now ask for leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** I ask for leave to withdraw.

The amendment was by leave of the House withdrawn.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am rather surprised with the procedure that the Honourable Member is pursuing in regard to these Bills. The last time when he brought forward a piece-meal legislation like this in regard to insurance, I warned him that some of us are keen that he should try and investigate the advisability or otherwise and also the possibility for nationalizing this industry in this country and also to have it studied by certain experts so that it would be possible for you to come before this House with the necessary proposals. On that occasion my Honourable friend



[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

had pleaded that things were still in a flux, there was still a war on, and it would not be possible for him to venture upon such a big project.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azisul Huque:** I am afraid my friend has forgotten everything of my reply.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** My honourable friend may remind me a little later on. One thing I know that he has not come forward with any concrete or constructive proposals in that direction. I said on that occasion and I repeat it that State insurance has not been proved to be a failure to the extent to which it has been tried in this country. There is the experiment made by the Mysore State itself, whose insurance venture has to its credit the lowest working expenses and also the lowest premiums being collected. There is the Government's own postal insurance. In fact, I suggested that its scope should be extended so that not only Government employees but also the outside public could be allowed to insure themselves under that scheme. Government has not done anything in that direction. Their experience of this postal insurance cannot be said to be a failure nor unsatisfactory. With these two instances, there is a *prima facie* case for studying this popular question and for studying the possibilities of developing this industry as a State industry. In addition to that I want the Government also to study the possibilities of developing co-operative insurance in this country. So far very few experiments have been made and Government has not given sufficient encouragement to these few experiments and it is high time that the Government should take it up. Unfortunately, Sir, Government, instead of encouraging these measures, is going in a direction which is likely to militate against the progress of co-operative insurance. Clauses 23 and 24 in the explanatory notes state that it is considered undesirable that a life insurance agent or an employer of insurance agents should be a director of any company transacting life insurance business, and provision is made for prohibiting this. What does it mean? I want to know. Does it or does it not prevent any insurance agent, or group of insurance agents, who form themselves into a co-operative insurance company from asking his insurance agents at the same time to try to control its activities as directors and afterwards take their share of the total profits that come for division as dividend? If it does prevent it then I contend that this clause is likely to prevent the progress of co-operative insurance in this country.

Secondly, why should it be that all this money should be placed at the disposal of these various private companies and afterwards this House being asked again and again to make amendments in this Act in order to prevent these people from playing their mischief? What is happening is this. We are asked to help this Government in order to repair the diseased body of Indian capitalism. My friend himself has admitted the other day that there are companies who sail under one cloak but do business in another direction. There are companies who do not treat the funds that are placed at their disposal in the proper way but invest them in all sorts of monkey ventures. There are also companies who have the lowest possible premiums in order to cut the other companies' business and at the same time not being able to make a good business of it themselves and thus endanger the premiums that are being paid to it by its life policyholders. If that is the record of Indian insurance companies, a large number of them not the whole lot of them, why should it be necessary for this House to try to prop up these companies? Try to control them. It is true there are some big companies, with one of which my Honourable friend Mr. Vaidyanathan was till recently associated and I dare say he is again going back—which have made a profit out of this business. That proves that this can be a profitable business if it is run properly. Then, what is it that prevents this Government from taking up this line of business, thus themselves make the profits and place the funds at the disposal of the public for various social purposes. There is an additional reason also. All these funds are being placed at the disposal of these life insurance companies, crores and crores, more than forty crores, I suppose, per annum. I am speaking subject to correction. How did they invest

this money, in what companies, in what industries? Does the country have any sort of control over it at all? This Government functions only as a policeman and nothing more. This Superintendent sits only as a sort of sword of Damocles over them, frightening some, encouraging some others and then, I do not know, helping some others in some other ways. Beyond that he has absolutely no power whatsoever to divert this money in those directions in which the development of India's industrial potential is absolutely needed. And Government can have that control if it were to start its own venture, have all these funds at their own disposal and then distribute these funds as between these various industries which call for new capital for their development. If it is feared that state insurance by itself is likely to bring in managerial dictatorship into this country, there is nothing to prevent the Government from encouraging the co-operative development of this industry.

Also in regard to some of these big overgrown insurance companies the Government can introduce their own partnership into them. They can stipulate that 40 or 50 per cent. of the share and paid up capital shall be taken by the state itself. More than 50 per cent. of the directorships should be held by the nominees of the Government and they should also determine the maximum rate of profit that these insurance companies may take for themselves . . . . .

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** On a point of order. Sir, you will kindly decide whether on a Bill of such a restricted nature, my Honourable friend can bring in the whole encyclopaedia of insurance, as to what are needed in the insurance world.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** It is a very beautiful point of order, Sir. Before you give your ruling, Sir, I wish to have my say.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member will have his fullest say. I was beginning to share the feeling of the Honourable Member who has raised this point of order. I know that it would be pleaded on behalf of Mr. Ranga that he is opposing the original motion and urging that this Bill should be rejected altogether and that instead of having a tinkering legislation in that manner, it is better to have a comprehensive legislation. That seems to be his point. But even assuming that he may not be irrelevant, there are limitations as to the time.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** That is why I am not making my points in full. I am simply mentioning my points. I do not want to be reduced to the plight of sending a petition containing all my suggestions to the Honourable Member so that he can dismiss them in an autocratic manner. I am placing all my points before the Members of this House so that it will not be possible for my Honourable friend to dismiss them. That is why I am merely placing before the House my points without arguing about them. Recently the Government of India published their Post-war Economic Development Plans. In that publication itself the Government of India has mentioned many of these points in regard to many of these industries. They themselves have stated that they would like to start many of these industries and in regard to private enterprise in what manner they would like to control these companies and so on. In any of these my Honourable friend does not seem to have any hand. This Government seems to be working in a sort of watertight compartments. He is unaware of what one department is doing and does not seem to have any influence on another department. To what extent has my Honourable friend learnt a lesson from that policy which the Planning Department has published the other day. After all it was not published merely in the name of the Planning Department. It was published in the name of the Government of India of which the Honourable Member is a member and yet he is none the wiser. Therefore I charge this Government of ignoring all those most essential directions in which the Government's interests, the public interests can be safeguarded.

Then there is the other thing also. We are now asked to give more powers to the Superintendent.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I would lose all my wisdom if I remained with my Honourable friend anymore.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** We are asked to give more and more powers to the Superintendent. These administrative officers are being given more and more powers. That seems to be the fashion of the day. Is there any other authority who has got any sort of control over the rulings or the doings that this Superintendent is expected to make from time to time? Supposing an insurance company feels itself aggrieved against the rulings given by the Superintendent. What is the other authority to which that company can appeal? Does he give his rulings just as a judge does in a court of law? Does he make public his rulings and the reasons therefore? If that is so, is there any authority to which any aggrieved party can possibly appeal? If there is to be no other authority at all, then I take very strong objection to the setting up of this sort of a monstrous Frankenstein in the name of a Superintendent. This is a new despotism, as it was called by one of the Justices in England.

Then, I take the other point, that is, the question of assignment. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, has argued it very well. I only wish to say that I support him very strongly. My point is this. The companies do not like to have all this money locked up as a sort of trust money which it will be impossible for them thereafter to invest as they like and where they like and therefore they would like to encourage the habit of some of the husbands to change their minds in regard to the assignments in favour of their wives, thus to keep these funds at the disposal of these life insurance companies, so that these companies may lend to whomsoever they like. Recently, a habit has been developed of dropping the column in which an insurer is expected to state as to whom is assigned a particular policy. If this is correct, then I would like them to revise their policy and reintroduce that column and see that that column is filled in by every policyholder, so that the policyholder will be given an opportunity of assigning the policy to his own wife.

**Mr. L. S. Valdyanathan:** Such a column is there in the proposal form.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not proposed that it should be dropped?

**An Honourable Member:** No.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it being observed by all the companies?

**Mr. L. S. Valdyanathan:** Yes.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I accept your facts.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** That is the fact.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member need not go into the details. The motion is for a select committee.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I am proposing something: in the meanwhile my Honourable friend comes and obstructs me and he obstructs you. He is expected to give the facts and for giving the facts he wants a sort of praise. Therefore I sincerely trust that instead of treating all these things in a spirit of levity, I hope the Honourable Member will, when he thinks of introducing the next Bill, try to introduce the necessary provisions in order to give effect to the suggestions that I have made, in pursuance of their own Government of India policy adumbrated for their post-war economic development.

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi** (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, associated with assurance as I am, I hope the House will listen to me, not in a spirit of levity, but with some attention. I also claim that I am speaking on behalf of the Indian Insurance Associations and bodies which have studied this question in all its aspects. I am not prepared to give a monopoly of nationalism and the safeguarding of Indian interests to political organisations alone. The body of Indian insurance companies is as patriotic and as keen on establishing Indian insurance in its proper place in the world of insurance all over the globe. I do not deny that we have black sheep among the Indian insurance companies; but to tarnish the whole of the Indian insurance

organisation as full of criminals is neither fair nor just. I have sat here listening to the criticisms from the Honourable the Commerce Member as well as the Honourable Members to my right. The only remark that I should like to make about these criticisms is that the gentlemen who proffered them before the House are not well informed on the subject. I shall mention only one point, Mr. President, and that is, that for some reason or the other, the Indian thinks of insurance only in terms of life. There are other departments of insurance and for that purpose the wording in technical language is Insurance for fire, marine and general accident, while for life the term used is Assurance. Looking at insurance in that limited way, some of the criticisms might be right, but to stand up in this House today and give us a thesis on private enterprise *versus* State enterprise is something that is not allowed by the terms of the motion before the House or the amendments.

Criticism has been made as to why the word 'actuary' should be removed from against the name of the Superintendent of Insurance. This criticism has been made by people who do not know what the Indian insurance world is. We are still in a state of infancy. The words "old" and "young" should be used instead of "small and large companies". There are young Indian companies which in time, I hope, will become some of the biggest insurance companies in the world. Till now we have been throttled and kept back. It will come as a surprise to some of my colleagues in the House that Indians began to think of insurance, except perhaps the Oriental, only after the last war. We have done well in the life department. We have reached almost 90 per cent. of the total Indian business and only 10 per cent. now goes outside. But if Honourable Members will try to study the figures for the other departments of insurance, they will note that we are underwriting only 30 per cent. while non-Indian companies take away almost 70 per cent. of all insured business. The Government of India, if it thinks in terms of national enterprise, will, I hope, so organise the insurance arrangements it is going to make and the law that is going to be passed, that it will help Indian insurance companies to control Indian business, and then we Indians shall try and deal with friendly non-Indian companies by way of re-insurance not only in one country or two but all the world over. It may come as a surprise to many colleagues of mine in the House that even a small company like mine sometimes has a share in a saw mill in Alaska and in some other form of property in Rumania or a ship somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. (An Honourable Member: "Which is your company please?") We want to get more and more into that kind of business: we in India are four hundred million, but we have to bide our time, and we of the insurance world are very keen that nothing shall be done which will impede the progress of Indian insurance in India.

As I was saying, the removal of the qualification of being an actuary for the Superintendent is a step in the right direction. An actuary at the best is a mathematician. An actuary is 99.9 per cent. associated with life assurance. Fire, marine, accident and many other branches of insurance do not need an actuary. The better party that could manage this type of business would be a man who has worked in a composite insurance company. The word 'composite' brings me to the remarks made by the Honourable the Commerce Member about life companies throwing away their money over other departments of insurance. It will perhaps be noted by him carefully that there are companies in India, one of which is the one with which I am associated . . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** What is the name of the company?

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi:** The Eastern Federal Union. It is one of the companies which went the other way to start as a composite company and then to open the life department on funds lent to it from the reserves of the other departments. Life funds when adequate can and should be invested in opening new departments. Such an investment would be safe and sound from every point of view. An Indian insurance company would not be worth its name if it did not give precedence to the rights of policyholders as against shareholders.

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi.]

There seems to be a general impression that we in the insurance world are all rascals, who want to run away with the money of the policyholders and swallow it up either for our own benefit or for the benefit of our relations and friends. I do not deny that instances like this have occurred in India but they have occurred elsewhere in the world also. Many of our politicians, as you must have found in your own experience, are sometimes members of the C. I. D. Usually they talk nationalism but they also carry information to the Honourable the Home Member. Similarly there are black sheep in my circle also but where I join issue with our critics is that if an insurance company has been run very well, if the auditors, actuaries and insurance experts on examination of the accounts come to the conclusion that there is enough money to meet all the demands of the policyholders, I do not see any reason why the directors of that company, even after giving bonuses—and we do give bonuses—rather good ones—should not invest the surplus as they consider to be proper. They may open other branches of insurance. They may invest it under the law as mentioned and stated in the Act and also in industrial shares. Sir, Honourable Members present here are perhaps aware of what is known as the invisible income or invisible assets of nations. Until America had made the decision on lend-lease 40 million pounds were given by American insurance companies in return for British insurance interests in America. We are also anxious to utilise our funds—and they will be very large ones in God's good time—and the invisible income they will bring, for the betterment of India, industrially and in other ways. Therefore for politicians to claim credit for everything as if insurance companies did not possess the least little bit of interest in the progress of the country is to look from a wrong angle of vision at the whole proposition of insurance in this country. We have got complete answers for every criticism made and when we find black sheep in our group we are the first to take action against them. It is the easiest thing to squeeze a *badmash* out of the insurance world by withholding from them re-insurances. Honourable Members need not worry as to how we wish to conduct insurance business in this country. The Honourable the Commerce Member used rather a defective word and Honourable gentlemen to my right were right in interpreting it as I.C.S. He said—services. That terrible word always means the I.C.S. The I.C.S. may be expanded into other Imperial services. I have tried the I.C.S. There are brains in India which are capable of running many of the institutions now under the I.C.S. to better advantage and therefore, Mr. President, I hope the Honourable the Commerce Member will, before we have finished with this item, tell us that like many other Government and semi-Government positions in the country, this superintendentship of insurance will not become a close preserve of the Indian Celestial Service as I would like to put it.

I wish my colleagues in the House had not insisted on a Select Committee. In fact I was rather surprised that the Honourable the Commerce Member had agreed to have a Select Committee. He brought forward a Bill last year when I was not here and the Select Committee considered it. The names mentioned by him were such as commanded the fullest confidence. War, Mr. President, creates a general spirit of immorality. We have heard of contractors and we have heard of the liaison between officials of the Government and these contractors. People of the "*Nouveaux riches*" class have come into the general field of business. Some of them tried to buy up insurance companies for a few lakhs to control sometimes the funds which had gone into crores. For that Government took immediate action and the committee under our colleague Sir Cowasjee Jehangir gave its recommendations. I wish this piece of legislation had not come before us piecemeal. I wish the Honourable the Commerce Member had brought forward a Bill covering the most important sections, 40A and 40B dealing with the problem of overall costs which is essential for the very life of insurance in India. We saw yesterday a Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill, then a Criminal Procedure Amendment (Amendment) Bill and then you can add many more amendments and have an Act with a long

nomenclature. If the Commerce Member had dealt with the really important items he would have brought us some relief. Now, the Select Committee is coming. I should like the Honourable the Commerce Member to give me and through me my insurance fraternity a guarantee that the other and more important Bill will be moved in this House before we disperse in April and have it passed, because the question of overall costs is interfering with the progress of Indian insurance. There are many other things one could say, but I realise that today we are only thinking in terms of a Select Committee and its membership. Let us hope that we shall be able to finish our work before we disperse, but the Honourable the Commerce Member must realise that a calamity is going to fall on the Government of India when their great adviser on insurance goes away. If he goes away, I am afraid the new Bill may not be so helpful to the Indian cause as we want it to be. Before he goes back to his company, the Honourable the Commerce Member should move heaven and earth and find time to see that the second Bill is introduced, discussed and passed before we disperse.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Sir, I think this matter has been debated sufficiently. The question is confined to a restricted issue today as to whether there should be a Select Committee and whether we in the House are generally agreed to some of the principles which are in the Bill.....

**Pandit Govind Malaviya** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise on a point of order, Sir. I understand that the usual procedure in such matters is that when motions for Select Committees are made, the entire principle involved in that Bill, the policy and all that, are discussed on the floor of the House. That is the occasion for the House and every Member of it to say what he feels about the entire subject, for the guidance of the Members of the Select Committee. I want to know, both as regards the view which the Honourable the Commerce Member has enunciated, and also with regard to the remarks you were good enough to make when my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, was in possession of the House, I should like to know: if Members of this House have any thing to say about the principle of the Bill, about the principle of the Insurance Act which is sought to be amended by this Bill and about other matters relating to insurance in this country when can they do so, if not now? Later on, when the Bill comes back from the Select Committee, I suppose the House will go into the consideration of its various clauses. If we want to make general observations about the matter, when can we do so?

**Some Honourable Members from Congress Benches:** Now.

**Mr. President:** As I look upon the matter, it seems to me that the principle of the Act of 1938 is not a matter under discussion under the present Bill. This is an amending Bill. That fact must be remembered. Therefore, the scope of discussion will be limited only to the amendments proposed.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** General discussion, if I understand the practice. . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, Order: If Members have to say anything more, I will, of course, hear them. But I will just give the Members an idea as to what is passing in my mind. In the case of an amending Bill, the scope of discussion will have to be limited to that Bill and that Bill alone and not the original Act or legislation which this Bill seeks to amend. If the other point were conceded, then at the time of even a minor amendment of any Act the whole legislation will be open to the House. I do not know if there is any other practice prevailing in this House, but I should be satisfied on the point that there was any such kind of practice prevailing in this House.

**Mr. Manu Subedar** (Indian Merchants Chamber Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, there are special circumstances attaching to this Bill in so far as there was a comprehensive Insurance Bill introduced in the last Session and it went through certain stages but could not be completed and the Assembly was then



[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

dissolved. The Government have now chosen to pick out some of the points of that composite Bill of the last Session and they have omitted some others. Some of us who referred to the omissions were, I feel, under those circumstances quite entitled to criticise the Government for the omissions and to ask for an assurance that the omitted portion will be introduced during the course of the Session in a second Bill. There is a slightly different circumstance on account of the history of this insurance legislation from the last Session.

**Mr. President:** This raises a different point altogether. At present the point under consideration raised by the Honourable Member, Pandit Govind Malaviya, in his point of order is as to the scope of the discussion on this motion and I was stating my views with reference to that point. If the House is dissatisfied about the course the legislation has been taking, it is perfectly open to the House to reject the particular motion that is brought before it as a matter of protest or to get an assurance from the Government, as the Honourable Member, Mr. Manu Subedar, has pointed out. But that would be a matter altogether different, from entering into the merits of the old legislation. What I am at present concerned with is just to define the scope of the discussion and, to my mind, it is very clear that in an amending Bill the scope of discussion will not be the principles involved in the original piece of legislation. The discussion will be only as regards the points which are included in the amending Bill, pointing out the lacunae, making suggestions for additions and all that sort of thing will be within the scope of the discussion. But if it is sought by the Honourable Member's point of order to raise a general discussion again on the principles of insurance or the principles on which the Act of 1938 was enacted, to my mind, such a discussion will be outside the scope of the present motion.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** May I advert to another practice in this House? If Government seek to amend a particular section of a previous law, the whole of that section which they seek to amend becomes the subject-matter of discussion, but not any other section which they have not brought in for amendment. That is how we have been going on here in the past.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European):** Mr. President, the opinion expressed by you is in complete agreement with past practice in this House and also with many past rulings in this House that on an amending Bill discussion is confined not to the scope of the original Act but to the clauses of the amending Bill. And at this stage of the discussion the only principles which can be discussed are the principles of the amending Bill. I entirely agree with the opinion expressed by you.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya:** May I seek light from you, Sir? The Bill which is before the House today does seek to modify only different sections of the old Act. That is true. But everyone of those sections of the old Act as well as the changes which are sought to be made today relate to the subject of insurance in the country. It is an actual practical difficulty with me; I am not trying to raise merely a technical point. Every amendment which has been proposed seeks to change the law of insurance in the country and, as such, will affect the actual day to day progress and functioning of the insurance business in this land. When the Act was passed, its principles were certainly then discussed. But what I want to know is that if Members wish to make observations with regard to the total effect of the insurance policy as adumbrated in the Act and in this Bill seeking to amend that Act, as it is affecting the country today, without wishing to get the Act repealed and without wishing to totally oppose the motions which are before the House, when will they get an opportunity to do so. If it is thought that this is not the occasion for them to do that, when will they be able to do it?

**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official):** Mr. President, may I say that after the very clear ruling you have given which is in consonance with the practice of all Legislatures, I do not think any further discussion is necessary.

If we allow the discussion to take place on the general principles of insurance, we shall not discuss this Bill at all. If we make suggestions about the law of insurance which my Honourable friends think ought to be on the Statute-book, we shall never come to a conclusion on this debate or discuss this Bill at all.

I beg most respectfully, Mr. President, to say that not only is your Ruling in consonance with the rulings in all legislatures, but I submit it should always be maintained in every piece of legislation that is brought before this House in future.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I wish to say.....

**Mr. President:** Order, Order. I do not think the matter needs any further argument. The question raised by the Honourable Member Pandit Goyind Malaviya is very problematical. I cannot advise him from this place as to how and when he can raise various questions which he wishes to raise. But any way, I have no doubt that the principles I have enunciated are the correct principles and the scope will be only so far as the amending sections are concerned. Of course, it is very difficult to define the demarcating line. Many times the amending sections perhaps touch other sections and some other observations may be relevant. But then, there too there is a limit up to which Members can go and touch. It is not possible to define cases on border line.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil** (Bombay Central Division! Non-Muhammadan Rural): You have to put liberal interpretation.

**Mr. President:** That is why I permitted two Honourable Members to go beyond the strict scope of the amending Bill. That is a question of Chair's opinion which should not be challenged in this House.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Sir, I was trying to reply to some of the points raised before the question of Select Committee was brought before the House. I have given an assurance that with a view really to give our wholehearted attention to the different aspects of the other Bill, which as my Honourable friends know has raised quite a lot of controversy among the insurance interest in various matters, I wanted to finish this Bill with its amendments which are more or less of a formal nature, which are non-contentious, which have been carefully considered by the Select Committee and on which opinions have been received and on which we have been spending time for months past with a view to see that legislation is put in proper order. The other day when I read out a speech as being delivered in Paris Conference, there was a question from the other side whether that speech was actually delivered at all. I cannot argue with that type of view. In any case, I can assure my Honourable friends that the other Bill is very actively before us and I do hope that within a very short time I shall be able to bring it before the House. I consider it a very urgent matter. I consider it in the interest of the country, and there is no desire on my part to shirk a very important duty. The only thing is that my friend asks me to try heaven and earth, and I can tell him I can try heaven as it is, but sometimes I find it really difficult that the earth is very difficult to tread upon.

**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What about the other place?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** As I said, Sir, you have rightly pointed out that the question of certain extraneous matters outside the Bill may be referred to, and naturally, Sir, they may be of some importance and relevant. But there is a limit to everything. For myself, I need only say that my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, might at least have tried to read the reply I gave to him in the last Session, that is on the point of nationalisation. I read it over this very morning, because I knew that Prof. Ranga will probably again start his old theme. In my college days, I read a very pregnant sentence of Edmund Burke which I sometimes find applicable in our every day life. It is: "Invention is exhausted, reason is fatigued, experience has judgment, but obstinacy is not conquered". Sir, I therefore took very great care this morning to read my speech again which I gave and I find that I had explained my reasons as fully as possibly I can. I made it quite clear that I am in full agreement with



him that a few monopolists should not control the economic life of this country either today or in the future. I am in entire agreement with him that this principle should be observed not merely in the field of economics but also in the field of politics. But, Sir, it is a question of method and *modus operandi*. I placed all my cards on the table. I had not kept anything back. I explained everything before him. As regards some of the direct issues which have been raised, one of the things is, why not bring a comprehensive Bill. Sir, my Honourable friend knows the history of this legislation, the history of the time which we are passing through when this legislation was introduced. This Insurance Act was passed in 1938. Then the war came on. We acquired new experience. At one time, as Honourable Members of the House know, it was the general view held that legislation of a complex or comprehensive character should not be brought in in war time. Sir, I did follow that for some time. But I soon began to realise that by waiting, the insurance business was allowed to be managed in a manner which was not to the best interest of the country or the policy holders or the insurance companies themselves. Therefore, Sir, it was in 1944 November that I brought forward this legislation. My Honourable friends will remember that at least one year before that, in other words, from December 1943, we had been trying hard to collect materials to bring in this legislation. I can assure my Honourable friends that if today I had been able to bring a more comprehensive Bill, I would have done so. But he would not be satisfied. He would be satisfied only if I could bring in a one clause Bill; following Prof. Ranga's dictum, that the whole insurance should be nationalised. It is quite all right. But I had to deal with the Act as it stands. I found certain defects. I wanted to clear away these defects as soon as I could. I have explained, Sir, the reason why we have not brought this comprehensive Bill, that is because this Bill was introduced in December 1943. I am still today in the year of grace, 1946, in matters which have been considered by a very strong Select Committee of this House and almost unanimously recommended. Yet I had to agree even today to have another Select Committee in order to give an opportunity to the Members of this House.

Sir, question has been raised about the merits of some of the provisions in this Bill. The question has been raised about the effect of Married Women's Property Act. I had hoped that my Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar—I understand "Ananthasayanam" means eternal sleep—I had hoped that he at least would have come to this living world and tried to read the effects of the Married Women's Property Act, *vis-a-vis* the Insurance Law.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadian Rural): I have read a thousand times.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Well, Sir, this Married Women's Property Act was passed in 1874. So far as the substance of the law is concerned, though it was slightly changed in 1923, it still remains exactly the same as it was in 1874. I was trying to find out the discussions that took place in the legislature in 1874 when that legislation was brought. I find that in about 20 lines the whole Bill was passed into law in 1874. We have since changed. The time today is not 1874, but it is 1946. What is the effect. If my Honourable friend will read the sections of the Married Women's Property Act he will find that if any one insures his life and therein nominates his wife or children to be the representative, they will not have the money easily. The effect of the Married Women's Property Act is simply this, that even if he dies a premature death, even if the widow be helpless, even if the children have nothing else in the world, the money does not go to them first. It must immediately go either to the trustee, if he has been nominated by the insured or if not, it goes to the official trustee.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** And then be paid to them.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** I hope my Honourable friend knows the processes through which a party has to go before money can be

received from an official trustee. I want my Honourable friend to read the section. If an insurance is effected in Bombay then the money will go to the Official Trustee in Bombay. In other words, if my Honourable friend Sri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar comes to Delhi in connection with his work and he insures himself at Delhi, then the Official Trustee of Delhi will get the money, no matter where his children or family may be living, they may be living in far off place—I do not know from which district he comes—.....

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** On a point of personal explanation, Sir. There is no time limit to speeches on Bills. I should like to correct a mistake which my Honourable friend has committed. The position is this. It goes to the Official Trustee. He is a paid official. It is his duty to pay to the wife and children of the insured.

**The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:** Life is not so simple as all that. Life is much more complex. I may read the section again.

"When the sum secured by the policy becomes payable, it shall, unless special trustees are duly appointed to receive and hold the same, be paid to the Official Trustee, of the Province in which the office at which the insurance was effected is situate, and shall be received and held by him upon the trusts expressed in the policy, or such of them as then existing."

If you want to develop insurance, if you do not want to clog it with difficulties, if you want insurance companies to make prompt payments all you have to do is to give all facilities to the insurance companies for prompt payments. In this case what happens? A man insures his life; after his death the insurance company cannot give the money to his widow or his children even though they may be nominated because it has to be paid by the Official Trustee. Sir, I have some experience of how money is to be received from the Official Trustee. He is not usually satisfied by a mere petition to him. He is an officer of the High Court and he has to arm himself with legal authority. I do not know if my Honourable friend is a lawyer but I am a lawyer and I know what difficulties there can be for a layman in getting that money through the Official Trustee. The whole principle of the amendment which was sought in the 1938 Act was to make it possible for every man to insure his life; and if he does and is no longer living at the time the money becomes due, to make it easy for the nominated representative to get money from the company without difficulty, without going to court and without going to the Official Trustee. After all if I give my money to my Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths, he will get it because the Married Women's Property Act will not come in; but if I give it to my own child he will have to go to the Official Trustee. I do not know why this difficulty should be there. In fact those who are in the business of insurance will agree that this puts more difficulty into the working of life insurance companies in India. Men will not nominate because they know that perchance there will be difficulty for the children to get that money. That was the report of Mr. Sen's Committee and that was the report of the Select Committee; that was the principle aimed at. But the language is such that it is not free from ambiguity and we want to make it clear that this should be there. It is not with a view to do anything else, and it will be for the House to fully consider what effect it will have, after hearing both sides of the question.

I said, this once before and all these points I have returned to again and therefore my Honourable friend's argument about changing his lady-love is wholly immaterial. He might change his lady-love and I will not object to it. But this question has to be examined as to what effect it is going to have on his own wife and children, so far as the law is concerned.

As regards the question of the Superintendent being a non-actuary, I said definitely in my speech that he will be either from the services or from the public life of this country. Like the proverbial bird my friends have selected the first part and have omitted the second part. And even there some of them are so patriotic that they have included the word "Indian" where I only said "services". I never meant the Indian Civil Service. There are very many services in this country; in fact it is a certain amount of specialised knowledge that will be necessary; but I do not want to bar the I.C.S. If an I.C.S. is a qualified

man certainly he also will be considered; but my friend cannot get any more assurance than that and it is not my intention to confine it to the I.C.S.

Sir, I do not think I need argue on all the other points which my Honourable friends have raised. As I said, this is a simple Bill which has been considered in several stages. I have full sympathy with my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga. Like him I also do not like monkey business and I do not like monkeys also. I feel that in a matter like this we ought to take all questions into serious consideration. I appeal to the House once again; my sole intention is to get the affairs of the insurance business corrected. If my Honourable friends raise any other questions I will have them examined; and I will publicly give this assurance here that if in the administration of the Insurance Act—short of bringing in a Bill which I cannot immediately do, about nationalisation—defects arise in the administration of the Act which any Honourable Member feels should be rectified, I will have the question examined in the department, and I will not hesitate, if I am in my place, to bring in a Bill with a view to remedying them.

**Mr. President:** The question is:—

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Commerce Member, the Honourable the Law Member, Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. Ali Asghar Khan, Pandit Govind Malaviya, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Mr. Leslie Gwilt and Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, with instructions to report by the 14th February 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

This is a very simple Bill and the purpose of the Bill is to rectify an injustice caused in the present circumstances to a workman who is drawing Rs. 300 as his wages. As Honourable Members are perhaps aware, under the definition of a "workman" in the Workmen's Compensation Act the right to compensation is limited to those workmen who draw up to Rs. 300 as their wages. Before the war it was possible for every workman who drew Rs. 300 as his wages to get the benefit of this Act. Since the introduction of War allowances and other measures such as the grant of dearness allowance, bonuses, good conduct pay and other payments which have been granted to the workmen what has happened is that a workman who formerly got compensation is now deprived of that compensation because his wages come to more than Rs. 300. This is due to the reason that under the definition of the term "wages" as given in the Workmen's Compensation Act all that extra remuneration which the workman gets other than wages is regarded as part of his wages for the purpose of computing his compensation. The result is that a workman who formerly was to get compensation now does not get it. The Bill seeks to protect such a workman by increasing the maximum monthly wages from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. The Bill therefore has two provisions in it: one is to amend the definition of the workmen so that instead of limiting the wages to 300, it raises to 400; and, secondly, to amend schedule IV to the Act which prescribes the compensation which a workman is entitled to get for death, permanent total disability and temporary disability.

As I said, Sir, the Bill is a very simple measure. It merely copies what has actually been done in Great Britain. There too in order to protect the rights of a workman who originally got compensation, the limit of wages has been raised from £350 to 425. The Bill is not only a simple measure, but, it is also a non-contentious measure. The Provinces have been consulted with regard to the provisions of this Bill and they have unanimously agreed to the amendments which are made by this Bill. The proposal also was put

forth before the Standing Labour Committee and there too it has secured the unanimous approval of all members of the Committee. Sir, I do not think I need expatiate at a very great length on the provisions of this Bill. With these observations, Sir, I move.

**Mr. President:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I welcome this Bill, but I want to bring one fact to the notice of the Honourable Member in charge. Schedule IV was first enacted along with the Act of 1923 and in 1933 it was revised and brought up-to-date in order to make the compensation adequate with the level of prices. I think the time has again come to revise the entire schedule and make it consistent with the level of prices; that is the point which I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable Member. Beyond that I have nothing to say. I think it is a matter on which everybody will agree.

**Mr. S. Guruswami** (Nominated Non-Official): I also welcome this Bill not because it goes as far as it should, but as I am a believer in the saying that, 'A bird in hand is better than two in the bush.'

In 1931, the Whitley Commission made recommendations regarding the scales of compensation that should be given to various classes of workmen. If that recommendation had been implemented, there would have been no necessity for introducing a new Schedule which gives a compensation of Rs. 4,500 in fatal cases and a compensation of Rs. 6,800 for permanent disablement. But, as the Honourable Member explained, in that it seeks to extend the wage class of the workmen by extending the scope of the measure to those getting Rs. 400 on the lines of the legislation recently passed in Great Britain, it is an important step which I welcome, but I would have wished the Honourable Member to have rectified a defect in this Bill, namely, not giving what the Whitley Commission had recommended for those drawing between Rs. 200 and Rs. 300. The Whitley Commission recommended that in case of death the dependents of those workmen who get between Rs. 200 and Rs. 300 should get an amount equivalent to Rs. 4,500 which is now sought to be given to those getting only above Rs. 300.

There is also the necessity, as Mr. Gadgil has pointed out, of revising the scales of compensation. The International Labour Conference recommendation on the subject is to give compensation for two-thirds of the loss of earning capacity. Here it is usually 50 per cent. and for higher wage classes, as in the case of men drawing about Rs. 300, it is about 20 to 30 per cent. Secondly, Sir, in regard to civil servants, who are governed by Civil Service Regulations, compensation given under those regulations in respect of those who do not come under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and draw higher pay is about 50 per cent. of the loss of earning capacity. Therefore, I do hope the Honourable Member will take steps to draw up a revised schedule of compensation. But while he may take sometime for doing so, I give him my fullest support in the beneficial measure which he has sought to introduce today.

**Mr. President:** I find that the Honourable Mr. Jaffer has two amendments standing in his name.

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer** (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not propose to move these amendments.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

**Mr. President:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am in agreement with the Bill as such, but I wish to make one suggestion to my Honourable friend, that as in England so also in this country, he should try to take the earliest possible opportunity of bringing another amending Bill with greater scope to amend Schedule IV in order to raise the scales of compensation to cover the maintenance of the families of disabled people. My Honourable friend has referred to the English precedent. I wish to draw his attention to one document entitled "Social Insurance Part II—Workmen's Compensation", published by the British Government. I will only read a sentence or two from part (ii) of paragraph 8:

"(ii) During the present war the weekly compensation has been increased by the addition of flat rate allowances under the Acts mentioned in paragraph 7 above. The effect of these allowances is to bring the maximum for total incapacity in the case of the single man up to 35s. a week during the first thirteen weeks, and 40s. thereafter, and in the case of the married man up to 40s. during the first thirteen weeks, and 50s. thereafter. A man with children also gets an allowance of 5s. a week in respect of each child under 15 years of age, or up to the 31st July next following the 16th birthday if still at school."

So I would like him to follow this example and try to bring forward another Bill with a more satisfactory Schedule IV. One more suggestion: I have already made it before the Honourable Member came to this House and that is that he should bring forward a Workmen's Compensation Bill if necessary, not as an amendment to this, even as an independent Bill, to bring within the scope of this workmen's compensation administration the permanent agricultural labour, namely, those who are employed for one month or more and especially those who are employed on annual contracts. I trust that the Honourable Member will consider these suggestions favourably.

**Mr. President:** Has the Honourable Member anything to say?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** As I said this Bill is brought forward for the purpose of rectifying the injustice done to a particular class of workmen. It is not a Bill which is intended to do anything more than that. All that I can say at this stage is that I shall bear the points that have been made by my Honourable friends who have spoken on this Bill and see whether something can be done in order to give effect to the suggestions that they have made. I might tell the House that we have in contemplation a Bill which deals with State insurance, which will include sickness insurance, workmen's compensation, maternity benefit, more or less on the lines of the social security measure adumbrated in England, and I think my friends will find that some of the suggestions, namely that the alteration of the system of lump-sum payments into periodical payments are being carried out in that measure.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

## INDIAN MINES (AMENDMENT) BILL

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

This Bill is a very simple measure.

[At this stage, Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)].

The purport of the Bill is to impose an obligation upon the mine owners to provide pit-head baths "equipped with shower baths and locker-rooms for

the use of men employed in mines and of similar and separate places and rooms for the use of women in mines where women are employed and for prescribing either generally or with particular reference to the numbers of men and women ordinarily employed in a mine, the number and standards of such places and rooms." I do not think there can be any dispute as regards the necessity of providing pit-head baths. It is bound to improve the self-respect of the miner and I am sure about it that it is very desirable that he should return home a clean person, if possible with clean clothes. This measure has been considered by the Coal Mines Advisory Committee which has been appointed by Government in order to administer the Coal Mines Welfare Fund. The Committee has unanimously accepted the proposal that pit-head baths should be an obligation of the colliery owners. In order to give effect to it, the Bill provides that under the rule-making power which is given to the Government of India under section 30 of the Mines Act, the Government shall have the power to make a rule prescribing pit-head bath. That is the main purpose of the Bill.

The second clause of the Bill does nothing more than exempt Government from following the usual procedure in the matter of making rules under the Coal Mines Act which are prescribed by Section 31. Section 31 says that any rules made under the Act shall be first published and then passed. We wish to exempt the rules that we propose to make under the provisions of this Bill from the provision of previous publication prescribed under Section 31. The reason for providing such exemption is that we are very anxious that this liability not only should be imposed but should be carried out immediately, we wish to avoid delay. In fact, I might tell the House that the Government are so anxious to have this system of pit-head baths introduced in all coal mines immediately that Government themselves have made a provision by which they are prepared to offer ten per cent. of the capital cost of the baths to colliery owners if they undertake to provide such baths within twelve months. In order that this

may be done, we do not propose to have these rules subjected to the provision of Section 31. The Bill is so essential and so simple and so non-controversial, that the House will accept it without much ado. Sir, I move:

**Mr. Deputy President** Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am wholeheartedly in favour of this Bill. I am glad that my Honourable friend has brought it forward. It is a small reform but an essential one. It should have been made by the Government a long time ago. It gives me pleasure to record the fact, that ever since my Honourable friend has become the Labour Member he has been trying his best to quicken the pace of labour legislation, especially in regard to our industrial labour. But I cannot congratulate him upon having fathered some-one else's baby in introducing women into our mines. I do not know whether he has stopped their working in the mines. They said they were going to stop it from the 1st of February but I wanted a definite assurance on the floor of this House because the old adage goes—"There's many a slip. . . . ."

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**: My Honourable friend is not aware that there is a Gazette notification.

**Sjt. N. V. Gadgil** (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It can be altered by another notification!

**Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Now that the black record is removed, I am glad to associate myself with my Honourable friend in support of this Bill.

**Shri Sri Prakasa** (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The thing that is worrying me is the temperature of the water. Will it be hot or cold? If after a whole day's work, the Honourable Member supplies very cold water to the miners and insists on their bathing in it, the result may be serious accidents; and then the Honourable Member may come



[Shri Sri Prakasa.]

out with the provisions of the Bill that we have just passed and ask for compensation not for any fault on the part of the mine-owners but because the law itself is defective. I believe therefore it would be safe for all concerned if the Honourable Member would add a schedule to this Act prescribing the temperature of the water in which the miners will bathe at various times of the year and in various parts of the country.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** It will be left to the miner. Some may want hot water and some cold water.

**Babu Ram Narayan Singh** (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): I represent the colliery area. I therefore congratulate the Honourable Member for Labour on the introduction of this Bill. This is the first time in my legislative life in this country that the Government has begun to care for the self-respect of the labourer. Of course, in this measure we have got nothing to discuss. We only congratulate the Honourable Member and ask him to come forward with some other measures for the benefit of the labourers in respect of all these things. With these words I support the Bill.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I want to know one thing, Sir. The Honourable Member remarked just now that Government would be prepared to pay ten per cent. of the cost of these shower baths. I do not want to say anything either in favour or against it. I just want to know what that exactly means and what has prompted the move on the part of the Government? Can't the mine owners be made to foot the bill for these baths themselves?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** We want to hasten this thing and that is why we offer this kind of encouragement, that if a mine owner does construct these baths within twelve months from a given date he will get this concession. Otherwise, he will not get it and he will have to do it at his own cost.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya:** Will not that purpose be served if it were laid down that the mine owners shall get those baths ready within twelve months. . . .

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** We must give some time.

**Pandit Govind Malaviya:** Say twelve months.

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi** (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I am rather surprised that the Honourable Member for Labour has thought of shower baths only. Our country has different methods of bathing. Generally we sit by the side of a river or a nullah or a pond or pool and take our baths there. Why is this special English system being brought into the country? There must be some scientific reason for it.

The second point that I should like to mention is that if the mine owners do not do what he wants them to do, what then is the remedy? Is there any punishment for them? Can they be fined, or can we force these people to have these shower baths fixed up?

Our mining brothers and sisters are definitely poor people. To teach them how to take a bath is an easy affair but where will they get the soap from? Will the Honourable the Labour Member consider, when making the byelaws and rules, which he does not wish to be made public now, the problem of supplying these people with soaps? Sir, to me the whole basis of the suggestion made appears that because somebody stands on his head in London, therefore we in India shall not be considered civilised unless we do the same. If you give them this shower bath, give them the soap also.

**An Honourable Member:** What about a towel?

**Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi:** There are many other things which the mine owners should be forced to do. I hope when the rules are being framed all these points will be taken into consideration else the poor mine worker with his dirty dhoty, have his bath, put on the same dirty dhoty and go back

home to his wife and children as dirty as he was in the morning. Therefore, Sir, I am anxious that instead of the ten per cent. being given to the mine owners to help them or to encourage them or to induce them to construct these shower baths, let the Government give to the mine owners that ten per cent. for supplying soaps, cleaner dhoties, towels and other amenities. That will be a better service for that will teach our mining countrymen the need for cleanliness.

**Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I quite agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Siddiqui, when he said that we in India are not used to shower baths and it would be better to start by giving something that our people are used to. I do not say that they should have a river nearby or a tank but I do feel that if ordinary taps are introduced instead of showers, perhaps taps are easier to get and it would not be quite so distant a date when these things will be introduced. Showers may be rather difficult to get—I do not know where they are made, but they may be more difficult to get than ordinary taps and I feel that if you introduce certain new and modern methods, they may not use them at all. There is that difficulty. With regard to the women's bath rooms that the Honourable Member spoke about I feel that it would be better for the women to have bath rooms more or less on the old Indian style but with running water in the taps and all other things that they are used to such as a stone for washing clothes, etc. I also feel that there should be some time limit given to the mine owners with regard to these bath rooms, as to when they should be ready, as otherwise I am sure they (mine owners) will take a very long time and would naturally wait to see whether they should spend all this money or not. With these words I support the Honourable Member's motion.

**Mr. P. J. Griffiths** (Assam: European): Sir, as regards bathing facilities it would be better to leave it to the Government at the time of framing the rules to mention the alternative forms of bathing facilities and to go into further details.

**Shri Sri Prakasa:** That may mean sunbath!

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Sir, I did not think that my Honourable friend, Mr. Siddiqui, would be so much perturbed,—he is not here in the House just now—by the shower baths. But I would like to tell the House that the question whether there should be shower baths or not is not an idiosyncrasy on the part of the Government or their own innovation. There is, as I told the House, an Advisory Committee, representative of coal miners, coal owners, representative of the Bengal Government and Bihar Government, which advise Government in the matter of the administration of what is called the Coal Miners' Welfare Fund. This question of the sort of baths that should be provided was put before the Committee and I would like to tell the House that in this Committee there are not only representatives of trade unions, but there are representatives actually of workmen and workwomen. There is one representative of actual coal miners and there is one representative of women miners and it is with their unanimous assent that Government decided to have shower baths.

So far as I am able to see, I should have thought that a shower bath would be far more effective in the matter of cleaning the person of a worker in coal mines than immersion in water or holding oneself under a running tap. I may also further add that this decision of having shower baths was taken by Government as a result of the experience of Messrs Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., at their colliery in Digboi. These shower baths have been in existence for a considerable time there and to our great satisfaction we found that the workers were making very good use of the shower baths and that they had no sort of objection at all. With regard to the question of soap, I can give the assurance to the House that we do intend to provide soap to every miner under certain regulations, and I think the House need have no anxiety on that account. I



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hope this will satisfy Honourable Members. An Honourable Member said that this is merely a declaration and that there is no penalty. If the Honourable Member concerned were to refer to section 39, he will find that that is a general penalty clause which imposes penalties.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** There is only one little difficulty in regard to women. They do not want their hair also to be washed with mere water: they may require oil or something.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** They may be provided with caps.

**Mr. Deputy President:** The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

**Mr. Deputy President:** The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

## PHARMACY BILL

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam** (Secretary, Health Department): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Rai Bahadur D. M. Bhattacharyya, Dr. P. G. Solanki, Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt, Sir Hassan Suhrawardy, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Dr. G. V. Deshmukh, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma and the Mover with instructions to report on or before the 25th February, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

This Bill has been brought forward in response to a demand made on several occasions in this House, and by professional organisations outside the House, for legislation to regulate the profession and practice of pharmacy. As the House is aware, at present the practice of pharmacy is largely in the hands of a class known as compounders, some trained and some untrained. The profession is not organised; there is no provision for registration, and untrained persons can undertake the responsible work of compounding and dispensing medicines without restriction. Such training as is given by Provincial Governments, mainly to persons who are to be employed in hospitals, is generally recognised to be inadequate. When the Drugs Bill was before this House, an undertaking was given on behalf of the Government that they would address Provincial Governments on the question of legislation to control the pharmacy profession. Provincial Governments were addressed at that time; but before the drafting of the legislation could be completed, serious war developments occurred and it was decided to postpone further action until the situation improved. All Provincial Governments have now agreed to Central legislation on this subject, and this Bill has been prepared in consultation with them.

In most countries it is now recognised that the compounding and dispensing of medicines and the handling of patent drugs is a responsibility which should not be entrusted to untrained persons. In almost every country there is an organised pharmaceutical profession consisting of members who have been trained and registered according to the requirements of the law. In India the need for such regulation is increasingly urgent owing to the forthcoming institution of a system of control of drug standards. However detailed the legal provisions may be and however stringent the inspection and supervision, the control cannot be fully effective unless there is available a body of pharmacists who can be relied on by reason of their education and training to exercise care

and responsibility in the dispensing and handling of drugs. Rules and regulations are no substitute for a responsible organised profession, with professional standards of conduct and professional control. A committee appointed by the Bengal Government went so far as to describe the present position as 'a public danger and a crying evil which is sapping the very foundations of public health and medical practice'. I think, therefore, that, whatever differences of opinion there may be on matters of detail, the House will agree that in principle this Bill is a necessary and a non-controversial measure.

Turning now to the general provisions of the Bill, it will be observed that it follows generally the lines of similar legislation relating to the medical profession. It is proposed that there should be an All India Council, which will be responsible for laying down the standards of education for pharmacists, and provincial councils which will be responsible for the maintenance of registers and will adjudicate on matters of professional discipline. It will inevitably take some time to provide the necessary educational facilities for these improvements in education, and the date of enforcement of the new standards of training to be laid down by the new All India Council has been left to Provincial Governments. In the meantime a register will be prepared and persons who have received training as compounders or have acquired a certain standard of competence will be brought on the register. It is proposed to empower Provincial Governments to prohibit the dispensing of drugs by unregistered persons; but the Bill does not place any restrictions on the compounding and dispensing of medicine by a medical practitioner for his own patients.

Finally, the Bill does not apply to the dispensing of medicines under the Indian systems of medicine but only to the dispensing of prescriptions of practitioners having qualifications recognised under the Medical Acts.

There are a number of amendments on the paper suggesting that the Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion. The Bill was published on the 8th December and it has elicited a considerable degree of support from professional associations. The Indian Pharmaceutical Association, the Bengal Pharmaceutical Association, the Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association, the Private Dispensers Association, Amritsar, and the All-India Compounders and Dispensers Association are among the bodies who have welcomed the Bill. If, however, the House feels that it is desirable to give more time to those interested in the measure to formulate their views, Government will have no objection to such a course. Sir, I move.

**Mr. Deputy President:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Rai Bahadur D. M. Bhattacharyya, Dr. P. G. Solanki, Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt, Sir Hassan Suhrawardy, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Dr. G. V. Deshmukh, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma and the Mover with instructions to report on or before the 25th February, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

**Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer** (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon" and with your permission I will add the words,

"by the end of June 1946."

I do not wish to go into the merits of this Bill. It is an important measure that is coming up and I would suggest that nothing will be lost if we circulate the Bill for public opinion. After all this Bill has not been before the country. We shall lose nothing if we wait for four months. It is an important Bill because it regulates the profession of pharmacy and the pharmaceutical councils. The Honourable Member has received certain views from certain quarters but I feel that it is not enough. We should certainly do it on an all-India basis. Let us invite opinions from all quarters, sit together and then come to a final decision. I hope the House will support my amendment.

**Mr. Deputy President:** Amendment moved :

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the end of June 1946."

**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by Tuesday, the 30th April, 1946."

Let not my amendment be construed in the light that I want to delay this kind of legislation. I do not want to delay this kind of legislation but I want to improve and better it. If I explain to you how I look at this Bill, you will see the difference between my aims and objects and the motive with which this Bill has been brought forward. His idea of the profession of pharmacy seems to me to be only this—if you can supply a better type of compounders and a better type of those persons who can mix medicines, that is all that is wanted for the purpose of pharmacy. My idea of pharmacy is very different. I think pharmacy, in other words dispensing of drugs, in other words purity of drugs, in other words the production of drugs, in other words, health, I may go further and say, the health of the nation—all these are inter-connected subjects and therefore merely to come forward before the people's representatives and tell them that you are doing something terribly important in the interests of the public and put forward a Bill like this is worse than useless. If this Bill is taken in its isolated form I personally would not have paid attention to it but looking at this Bill as the first very delayed and very weak measure to open on our health front the war against disease and death, I am willing to take interest in this. Unfortunately this is a subject with which this House is not very conversant and therefore in order to give my colleagues and friends a better idea of the Bill, I propose to deal with this unfamiliar subject to this House in the light of what is the background, what is the importance of the subject, how other countries have solved it and what are the things that we should do about it.

To begin with, see how this so-called profession of pharmacy can be looked at from the higher point of view and from the real point of view. Let me draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the legislation on pharmacy in Great Britain itself. This subject is not new. I would say that similar and better legislation should have been undertaken by this Government long time ago. As early as 1852 a similar Bill, an Act of Pharmacy, was passed in Great Britain. Therefore there is absolutely no justification for the Government here to come and say that this is a new measure and that they knew nothing about it. What were the aims and objects of that Bill in Great Britain as early as 1852? The object of that Pharmacy Bill was safety of the public, not merely providing competent compounders to the medical practitioners and not only a knowledge of mixing of medicines but also a competent knowledge of pharmaceutical chemistry was necessary. That is the idea behind Pharmacy Bills. If you want to have competent pharmacies, then they must not only mix medicine but they should have pharmaceutical knowledge. In other words, they ought to know production and purity of manufacture of drugs. Side by side with that, they should keep the ideal of the health of the people before them. Compare with that the aims and objects of the Bill which has been brought forward now. It is stated here 'it is desirable that, as in most other countries, only persons who have attained a minimum standard of professional education should be permitted, etc.'

See the difference in the aims and objects of the legislation in Great Britain and legislation proposed here, even in non-controversial matters like the health of this country. The aim here is the minimum standard of professional education. After all this Bill is being brought forward for the sake of the health of the country and you are going to be satisfied with a minimum standard of professional education.

Sir, this reminds me of a very similar measure that I took considerable part in, namely, the All-India Medical Council Bill. There, again, what did you have? A minimum standard of professional qualifications. And here you will be satisfied with the minimum standard. That means you will put up with inefficiency. That means you do not want anything first-rate here. All that you want is some excuse that we are in India and that we are doing all that we can for the public. My object in supporting a measure like this is not this. I will not be satisfied with the minimum standards. I want the very best that I can have in the whole world provided I can afford it. And I know that I can afford it. In fact, I can afford much more than Great Britain can at the present time. I belong to a creditor country and not a debtor country and, as such, why should I not expect best of things in health and otherwise for my people. What is the other aim and object? Whereas the aim and object in Great Britain is competent public health and competent pharmaceutical knowledge, what is the aim here? It is interesting. They say:

"It is further proposed to empower Provincial Governments to prohibit the dispensing of medicine on the prescription of a medical practitioner otherwise than by, or under the direct and personal supervision of, a registered pharmacist."

Whereas there the pharmacy laws wanted a competent knowledge of pharmaceutical chemistry, which means, as I said, the manufacture of drugs, here my Government for better or for worse is satisfied in respect of a good pharmaceutical knowledge with only giving just sufficient knowledge, so that they can mix up medicines. Therefore, from this point of view I do not think that the Bill should be sent straightaway to the Select Committee and that there is nothing more that we can learn from the public opinion.

At the present time the opinion in the country and certainly in my profession is that we are all out to do the best we can for the preservation of health and for the welfare of our country. What is the condition of health in India? Let me give you some figures from the Health Section of the League of Nations and they will stagger you. It is astonishing how much apathy there is in my own countrymen with regard to the public health in this country.

Sir, a few millions are killed and maimed in a war, whether it is the first World War or the second Global World War, and not only Europe but Asia and also our country are in a great excitement over the terrible calamities that have happened and of the great mortality that has occurred. And although from day to day men are dying from very common diseases in this country, yet we do not seem to pay any attention to it. Take, for instance, malaria only. The figures that I am going to give are not my figures; I have got them from the Health Section of the League of Nations. Does anybody know what is the mortality from malaria in India? It is a million and a half. Fifteen lakhs of people die from malaria every year. Then, take the figures of those corresponding to the injured on the battle-field. I mean those who are afflicted with malaria but do not die and whom you could compare with the injured on the battle-field. Their number is not less than 100 millions per year. That is the figure which you can attribute to one disease, malaria, only.

Two years ago when I came here on the food question, I said that food famine was a man-made famine. Many people in the country criticised me for having said that and they said that I had coined a new word. I still believe that the famine then was a man-made famine. I did not take part in the food debates, but I still believe that instead of procurement, distribution, control, rationing and all that in the last five years, if the Government or the Food Department had gone about its business properly, that is, for the proper production of food, proper fertilizers, proper utilisation of water supply in this country, then we would not have had the occasion to go about whining to other people and asking them to give us more food. By this time, as is the case with the nations of Europe, we could have easily increased our food supply by ten-fold and today we would not have been in the helpless position in which we find ourselves. This is only by way of example. Also, in the case of medicines and drugs we have a similar man-made epidemic and man-made death-rate and I make bold

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to say that it is so. Why do I say so? The yearly death rate of a million and a half per year and 100 million maimed per year can be prevented by human effort. According to the same Health Section of the League of Nations, what were the requirements of India with regard to quinine? Four million lbs. And what was the actual consumption in India of quinine for protection against malaria? Sir, I do not think you will believe it and I can be corrected if I am wrong, it is 20,000 lbs.

**Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam:** It is 200,000 lbs.

**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh:** I am glad I have been corrected and I will take his figure. Even if he increased it ten-fold, he cannot give us 4 million lbs., which is the amount required. I blame Government for that and I do not exclude the public from the blame. All that the Government and the public institutions of the country were doing was to supply them with 200,000 lbs. of quinine. Is that a very satisfactory state of things for the Government? Instead of 200,000 lbs. suppose 4 million lbs. of quinine had been supplied, is it not possible that you could have prevented this death-rate. A few millions are maimed in a war which happens once in two generations, but this is happening day after day and people are taken away from this country. You had a famine once in Bengal, a terrible famine, a famine for which everybody did feel at that time, but I am surprised at the apathy and indifference with which this process had been going on with us. We look at it with sheer indifference. There, again, I am ashamed, not for myself, but for this Government that when quinine was not available was it not possible to prevent the death rate by malaria? There is such a thing as atabrin which has been found useful and a good substitute for quinine. The price of quinine in ordinary pre-war days was Rs. 18 per lb. At the present time the price of quinine is Rs. 500 per lb. But what is the price of atabrin? It is only 4 shillings per lb. or Rs. 3 per lb. Now, Sir, do you know what happened with regard to this. The Director of the Haffkine Institute in Bombay sent a statement to the Government and also made a public statement that we could produce all the atabrin required in this country. Whereas quinine takes weeks to prepare and its trees take months to grow, this process could easily have been utilised and finished within a few weeks. And yet what do you think this Government did which comes forward with all these futile Bills in the interests of the health of the country? They said that no permission could be granted. One would like to know why a permission like this could not be granted. Therefore, what I do say is this. If you must have pharmacy Bills, then do something that is efficient. Do something that will help the health of the country, and not only myself but the whole of my profession—I am confident to tell you—will be behind you. With regard to this question, I may say that the whole thing started from the Drugs Enquiry Committee of 1930-31. That Committee went round the country. If only the instructions of that Drugs Enquiry Committee had been carried out today, we would never have found ourselves in the position that we are finding today. The position today in the case of food is expected to get worse, there will be complete famine. In the case of drugs also, I may tell you we are very badly off. We were badly off and even now we are no better off, yet this Drugs Enquiry Committee made recommendations one of which was to start educational centres for pharmacy. That was in 1930. I see the Honourable the Mover of this Motion is trying to look up the Drugs Enquiry Committee report to find out if that is so or not. I will give him some more information. That information is: they suggested that there should be a training centre for pharmacy and for the preparation of drugs not one only, but one in each Province. That was the recommendation of the Drugs Enquiry Committee. Yet, what do we find? The report of the Drugs Enquiry Committee has been completely forgotten. We heard something about it in 1940 in the shape of the Drugs Act. Now, we find this Pharmacy Act in the year of grace 1945.

**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We are in 1946.

**Dr. G. V. Deshmukh:** I thought I might give the Government a little more credit and make it one year earlier. In 1946, in every other country you have had a Drugs Act and a Pharmacy Act. You always have the Pharmacy Act and the Drugs Act together. Look at England. It has been the same—Pharmacy and Drugs Act, Pharmacy and Chemist Act. Wherever you find the two are allied, but here in India you find pharmacy is isolated. Why is the subject of pharmacy isolated from its natural connections with pharmaceutical chemistry, isolated from its natural connections with Botany, isolated from all its surroundings, so that we in India can merely console ourselves that the Government have given chosen compounders to our medical profession. That is why it is to be isolated here. I say it ought not to be so. Let this Bill go to the public, then the public and my profession will tell you how this Bill can be improved and can be made more useful for the health of the public. As I say this is a regrettable story of legislation in this country. In 1930-31, we had this Drugs Enquiry Committee about which everything has been forgotten. Then, in 1940 we had this Drugs Act. Now, in 1946 we are going to have this Pharmacy Act. But there is something more to which I should like to draw the attention of the House and it is this. In 1936, the Bombay Government tried to pass a Pharmacy Act. They appointed a Committee for the Pharmacy Act in 1936. What is of greater importance is they had an education sub-committee of this Bombay Government. What happened to the report of the Pharmacy Committee of the Bombay Government. It has not seen the light of the day. I want to know from the Honourable Member himself who has brought forward this Pharmacy Act whether he had a look at this report of the Pharmacy Committee of the Bombay Government. Not only did they have a Pharmacy Committee, but also they had an education subject committee of the Pharmacy Act. I want to know again from the Honourable the Mover of the Motion whether he has had a look at the report of the education sub-committee of Pharmacy Act. It is no good merely coming forward, I think the day is long past when you can fob off any measure like this and say that Government are doing their best. The Government have got to do their best, and that is now, otherwise they will have something not very pleasant. If the people of the country are to believe that the Government are doing something in return for the money they take then the Government should do something decent. What is the expenditure that the Government have been spending on this? I say there is always the excuse. You may say "Oh! it is all very well for you to suggest there should be educational institutions for pharmacy in each Province, there should be the Drugs Act and so on, but where is the money to come from?" I say money does come. Government takes money all right from the people. From my City of Bombay the Government are taking something like 100 crores in the shape of income tax, and about 75 to 80 lakhs in the shape of excess profits tax. When you wanted to prevent a smaller mortality on the battlefield, what was your war expenditure per day. I am not talking about Britain's war expenditure. I think the expenditure of India—I hope my Honourable friend will correct me if I am wrong—was somewhere to the tune of about two crores per day. Anyway the point is this. A day's expenditure which you devote to war can be easily diverted to establishment of pharmaceutical colleges or training centres, one in each Province and that would help you to erect your health front against the diseases. You can fight all diseases by setting apart one day's war expenditure. Even there, you have not treated fairly the public in this country. Perhaps the Government may ask, why is it I am alluding to all these things. My idea of this Pharmacy Bill is not merely to apply the ointment to my soul that I have done something. I want a very efficacious measure, and I believe the public will certainly support if the measure is good. Why, Sir, in Bombay the other day a certain gentleman—I believe it is Sir Homi Mehta—gave a donation of seven lakhs to the Bombay University



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for the technological section. I say if the Government would only bring forward decent measures, people will not be wanting who will give donation for starting such training centres. If these centres are started all over the country, then you can have an army of pharmaceutical chemists who will be of use to you not only as I say in supplying more compounders, but who will be of great use in production of drugs and preventing drug famine in this country.

At this juncture, why have I spoken at such length on this measure? My own point of view is that it should be sent round for eliciting public opinion. It is very necessary that you should get public opinion on this measure. Going through the various provisions of this Bill, I see the whole thing is a huge joke. You have educational regulations and examinations and everything in perfect paper order. I want to ask my Honourable friend where are you going to get your students from for this examination. Where are you going to teach them? Have you got any institutions now where you can teach them this pharmacy so that you can establish a standard of examination where your professors can go and examine the students.

There are neither professors nor students for teaching institutions and you have yet a paper-perfect Bill trying to establish a standard of minimum qualifications. You talk about half a dozen objects, putting down how the board of examiners is to be constituted, what are going to be your educational rules, and all that. I say that at the present stage the whole thing looks to me not only as a joke but even better than a joke. It may be Hamlet but there is no state of Denmark about it. And in the circumstances to hurry on with legislation like this and say that this is absolutely non-controversial is to show that you have got no proper idea as to what a Pharmacy Act means and that you have not paid any proper attention to whether you have got the equipment, means or the material for the examination, and so on. I will give my Honourable friend some little information. I do not know if there are very many pharmacists in India either to be professors or to be examiners. I do not think there are more than about two dozen pharmacists in the province of Bombay and very likely the majority of them are in Bombay city attached to different commercial institutions. It is not likely that they will give up their lucrative jobs to become professors in your newly formed institutions at the present time. As I said, about students, so far as I know, there are no students in the Bombay University. I know that in 1936 the Deans of the two Medical Colleges in Bombay were asked whether they would take students for pharmaceutical chemistry; and they both honestly and rightly said that they would not because they had not got the teaching facilities. Since then the Department of Technology in Bombay did open a section. But what does that section mean? Will that section supply you with students of the type that you want? That is a post-graduate course with no better accommodation than for about ten students; and they are working on a course of advanced studies which practically is of no use for the purpose of this Bill or for the purpose of the health of this country. In the circumstances is it not better that you should start from the beginning and with first things first? Is it not better that you should give some little attention to whether you should not start your educational centres first, preferably one in each province if you can, otherwise one at the centre if you are short of men, material and finances, and then first educate your young students through competent teachers, educate them in the subject in which you want to examine them and then come forward with Bills like this asking for a proper standard? Sir, it is from that point of view that I speak and not, as I said at the beginning, with the intention of delaying legislation. No one is more anxious than myself and my friends and colleagues in the profession that we should have a decent legislation concerning health. We should also like that whatever concerns health should see the light of day as soon as possible. The entire medical profession is interested in the Bhoré Committee's Health Report. We have been on tenter-hooks; we want to know what suggestions were made

by the foreign experts that you brought out here. Why is it that that report has not yet seen the light of day? We feel that we are more earnestly interested in our health problems than these foreign experts that are brought out here, paid for the job; they go round the country, not knowing the local circumstances, suggest academical improvements and then go away blaming our country, blaming our people, abusing our teaching and abusing our institutions. We have these experts, we have committees and reports which do not see the light of day for years and years, as happened in the case of the Drug Inquiry Committee's report and other reports, and then we are treated to such fatuous Bills. Sir, instead of having this kind of joke let us be earnest about it because the question involved is a very serious one. The idea seems to be that foreigners are more interested in our health problems than we ourselves are. Many things which are inaccessible to us are accessible to them. This kind of thing should not continue and I hope will not continue. I hope my amendment will be taken in the right spirit by the Honourable Member who moved the Bill and that he will not be in a hurry to get the report by the 25th February. Even my 30th April seems to me to be too early and even the 30th June seems to be too early. When you ask for public opinion do not confine it to opinion as to how you are going to have dispensing chemists who mix from one bottle to the other. The present lot can do that quite well. My experience of 30 years about these poor ignorant compounders who are now blamed is that they are a very conscientious lot and they are doing their duty quite well. If you want to replace them, by all means replace them by better material, an agency which will have a better aim in view, and then you will find that we are not against this legislation but we will do our best to support it.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 11th February, 1946.