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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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(28th February to 13th March, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

CONTENTS

Volume II—28th February to 13th March, 1945

	PAGES		PAGES
WEDNESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1945—		FRIDAY, 9TH MARCH, 1945—	
Member Sworn	787	Starred Questions and Answers	1238—53
Starred Questions and Answers	787—821	Unstarred Question and Answer	1253
Unstarred Questions and Answers	821—822	The General Budget—List of Demands	1254—90
Short Notice Question and Answer	822	Demand No. 12.—Executive Council	1254—90
Amendment to Standing Orders—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	822	Refusal of Supplies—No Confidence in the Government	1254—90
Demands for Supplementary Grants—Railways	822—59	SATURDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1945—	
The Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on consideration of clauses not concluded	850—60	The General Budget—List of Demands	1291—1811, 1812—85
Presentation of the General Budget for 1945—46	860—79	Demand No. 72.—Post-war Planning and Development	1291—1811
The Indian Finance Bill—Introduced	879	Refusal of Supplies for the Department	1291—1811
The Income-tax and Excess Profits Tax (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	880	Demand No. 16.—Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	1812—27
		Failure of Control Permit System and Supply of Consumer Goods	1812—27
THURSDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1945—		Demand No. 26.—Food Department	1827—85
Member Sworn	881	Supervision and Control of Work in Provinces	1828—85
Starred Questions and Answers	881—907	The Factories (Second Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	1811
Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	907—08		
Unstarred Questions and Answers	908—18	MONDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1945—	
Short Notice Question and Answer	918—14	Member Sworn	183
Motion for Adjournment re Failure to counteract Anti-Indian Propaganda by Britain and America—Disallowed	914	Starred Questions and Answers	1387—59
The Hindu Marriage Disabilities Removal Bill—Referred to Select Committee	914—30	Unstarred Questions and Answers	1359
The Indian Evidence (Amendment) Bill—Continued	939	Motion for Adjournment re Composition of the Indian Delegation to San Francisco Conference—Ruled out of order	1359—61
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the Motions to refer to Select Committee and to circulate not concluded	939—46	General Budget—List of Demands	1361—98
		Demand No. 16.—Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	1361—82
FRIDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1945—		Cloth and Yarn Position	1361—82
Starred Questions and Answers	947—67	Demand No. 39.—Geological Survey	1382—86
Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	967—69	Government Policy re Mineral Resources of India	1383—86
Unstarred Questions and Answers	969—73	Demand No. 26.—Food Department	1386—87
Resolution re National War Front—Adopted	973—98	Supervision and Control of Work in Provinces	1386—87
Resolution re Removal of Sections 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act, 1935—Discussion not concluded	997—1008	Demand No. 15.—Home Department	1387—95
		Faucity of Scheduled Castes in Government of India Services	1387—95
MONDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1945—		Demand No. 23.—Department of Labour	1395—98
Member Sworn	1009	Labour Policy of Government of India	1395—98
Starred Questions and Answers	1009—87		
Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	1037—89	TUESDAY, 13TH MARCH, 1945—	
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1038—41	Member Sworn	1399
Short Notice Question and Answer	1041	Starred Questions and Answers	1399—1429
The General Discussion of the General Budget	1041—56	Unstarred Questions and Answers	1429
		Short Notice Question and Answer	1429
TUESDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1945—		Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Information and Broadcasting Department	1430
Death of Mr. K. S. Gupta	1057—59	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Civil Defence Branch of Defence Department	1430
		The General Budget—List of Demands	1430—76
WEDNESDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1945—		Demand No. 21.—Finance Department	1430—56
Starred Questions and Answers	1061—98	Need for Economy and for more stringent Control of Expenditure	1430—56
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1098—1101	Demand No. 23.—Department of Labour	1456—62
Transferred Starred Questions and Answers	1102—22	Labour Policy of Government of India	1456—62
Transferred Unstarred Questions and Answers	1122—27	Need for immediate re imposition of Ban on Employment of women underground in Mines	1462—66
General Discussion of the General Budget	1127—62	Demand No. 1.—Customs	1466
		Demand No. 2.—Central Excise Duties	1466
THURSDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1945—		Demand No. 3.—Taxes on Income Including Corporation Tax	1466
Members Sworn	1163	Demand No. 4.—Salt	1466
Starred Questions and Answers	1163—95	Demand No. 5.—Opium	1466
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Information and Broadcasting Department	1195—96	Demand No. 6.—Provincial Excise	1466
Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Emigration	1196—98	Demand No. 7.—Stamps	1466
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Civil Defence Branch of Defence Department	1198—1201	Demand No. 8.—Forests	1466
Election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways	1201	Demand No. 9.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works	1467
Election of Members to the Central Advisory Council for Railways	1201—1205	Demand No. 10.—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)	1467
The Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1206	Demand No. 11.—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt	1467
The Indian Central Oilseeds Committee Bill—Introduced	1206	Demand No. 12.—Executive Council	1467
The Income-Tax and Excess Profits Tax (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	1206—81	Demand No. 13.—Council of State	1467

TUESDAY, 13TH MARCH, 1945—*contd.*The General Budget—List of Demands—*contd.*

	PAGES
Demand No. 14—Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department	1467
Demand No. 15—Home Department	1467
Demand No. 16—Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	1467
Demand No. 17—Department of Information and Broadcasting	1467—68
Demand No. 18—Legislative Department	1468
Demand No. 19—Department of Education, Health and Lands	1468
Demand No. 20—Department of Commonwealth Relations	1469
Demand No. 21—Finance Department	1469
Demand No. 22—Commerce Department	1469
Demand No. 23—Department of Labour	1469
Demand No. 24—Department of Posts and Air	1469
Demand No. 25—War Transport Department	1469
Demand No. 26—Food Department	1469
Demand No. 27—Central Board of Revenue	1469
Demand No. 28—India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment charges	1469
Demand No. 29—Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the administration of Agency subjects and management of Treasuries	1469
Demand No. 30—Audit	1470
Demand No. 31—Administration of Justice	1470
Demand No. 32—Jails and Convict Settlements	1470
Demand No. 33—Police	1470
Demand No. 34—Ports and Pilotage	1470
Demand No. 35—Lighthouses and Lightships	1470
Demand No. 36—Survey of India	1470
Demand No. 37—Botanical Survey	1470
Demand No. 38—Zoological Survey	1470
Demand No. 39—Geological Survey	1470
Demand No. 40—Mines	1471
Demand No. 41—Archaeology	1471
Demand No. 42—Meteorology	1471
Demand No. 43—Other Scientific Departments	1471
Demand No. 44—Education	1471
Demand No. 45—Medical Services	1471
Demand No. 46—Public Health	1471
Demand No. 47—Agriculture	1471

TUESDAY, 13TH MARCH, 1945—*contd.*The General Budget—List of Demands—*contd.*

	PAGES
Demand No. 48—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	1471
Demand No. 49—Agricultural Marketing	1471
Demand No. 50—Civil Veterinary Services	1472
Demand No. 51—Industries	1472
Demand No. 52—Scientific and Industrial Research	1472
Demand No. 53—Aviation	1472
Demand No. 54—Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation met from Revenue	1472
Demand No. 55—Broadcasting	1472
Demand No. 56—Capital Outlay on Broadcasting met from Revenue	1472
Demand No. 57—Emigration—Internal	1472
Demand No. 58—Emigration—External	1472—73
Demand No. 59—Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	1473
Demand No. 60—Census	1473
Demand No. 61—Joint Stock Companies	1474
Demand No. 62—Imperial Dairy Department	1474
Demand No. 63—Miscellaneous Departments	1474
Demand No. 64—Currency	1474
Demand No. 65—Mint	1474
Demand No. 66—Civil Works	1474
Demand No. 67—Central Road Fund	1474
Demand No. 68—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	1474
Demand No. 69—Stationery and Printing	1474
Demand No. 70—Miscellaneous	1474
Demand No. 71—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	1475
Demand No. 72—Post-war Planning and Development	1475
Demand No. 73—Civil Defence	1475
Demand No. 74—Delhi	1475
Demand No. 75—Ajmer-Marwara	1475
Demand No. 76—Panth Piploda	1475
Demand No. 77—Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)	1475
Demand No. 78—Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)	1475
Demand No. 79—Delhi Capital Outlay	1475
Demand No. 80—Commuted Value of Pensions	1476
Demand No. 81—Interest-free Advances	1476
Demand No. 82—Loans and Advances bearing interest	1476

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 2nd March, 1945

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

SELECTIONS FOR PROMOTION AS ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

612. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) With reference to the Honourable the Railway Member's reply to starred question No. 349 asked on the 14th November last, in connection with promotion to the posts of Assistant Controllers on the North Western Railway in order to make good the deficiency in the representation of certain communities, will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing separately for each Division of the North Western Railway and for each community the following information:

(i) the number of candidates sent up for January, 1945, selections held at Lahore, and

(ii) the number of candidates selected?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take against the practice of communal discrimination in the matter of promotions; if none, why?

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

(b) No communal discrimination is shown in regard to promotions and no further steps are called for.

Statement showing communal composition of staff recommended by each Division for selection as Assistant Controller and those selected in January, 1945

Division	Number of staff recommended by Divisions for selection			Number of staff selected		
	Muslims	Hindus	Other Minority communities	Muslims	Hindus	Other Minority communities
Delhi	1	1	1	1	..	1
Lahore	4	10	1	3	1	..
Rawalpindi	5	2	..	2	1
Quetta	2	8	..	1	3	..
Multan	1	2	1	..	1	..
Ferozepore	1	1
Karachi	1	4	..	1	1	..
Walton Training School	2	..	2	2	..	2
Total	12	31	7	8	8	4
Grand total	50			20		

RESERVATION OF SECOND CLASS BERTHS FOR SITTING ONLY ON A SECTION OF BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY

613.*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if he is aware that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway from Ahmedabad to Bombay, reserve berths in second class on payment of annas 0-8-0 per berth and issue a coupon accordingly?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that after issuing a reservation coupon for a berth they provide only sitting accommodation in the second class to the great inconvenience of the passengers who sit huddled up in their seats and waking up the whole night?

(c) Under what rule or law has this system been adopted on that part of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, when the rules distinctly provide, as is even notified in the Time Table, that berths will be reserved for sleeping accommodation from 9 P.M. to 6 A.M. and sitting accommodation only would be provided during the day?

(d) How is the receipt of annas 0-8-0 per berth justified when only inconvenient sitting accommodation is given similar to that in the Intermediate compartment?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to instruct the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway to follow the usual course of reservation of the berths in the second class as is done on the other Railways? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Seats, and not berths, are reserved, but the reservation fee of Annas 8 is not charged.

(c) The system was duly notified by the B., B. & C. I. Railway in a public notice dated 5th January, 1943. A notice to this effect also appears as a Special Slip in the time-table of that Railway. The B., B. & C. I., Railway is competent to make such Rules.

(d) Does not arise in view of replies to (a) and (b).

(e) No.

POST-WAR RAIL-ROAD CO-ORDINATION

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

(a) whether Government have come to any conclusions over post-war co-ordination of the Rail and the Road;

(b) whether it is proposed to float large companies in big areas for road transport with majority of shares owned by the Railway companies; and

(c) if so, whether they have considered the rights and interests of existing transport agencies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There is practical unanimity of opinion on all sides that co-ordination is essential but opinions differ as to the means by which it should be effected. Government are considering the whole question in the light of the various opinions expressed.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given by me to his short notice question No. 7 on the 20th February 1945 and to supplementary questions arising therefrom.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know when they expect to come to a conclusion over this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is entirely for the Madras Government in the first place to come to a conclusion regarding their policy, after which we shall consider the situation.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I think the Honourable Member is mistaken. This does not refer to the Madras Government.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I see. Well, I cannot say when we shall come to a conclusion but we are considering the various opinions expressed.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If the opinions of the different provinces differ as to their coming in for a share or not, will the Central Government have different plans for different provinces?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That must be the case since road transport lies primarily in the hands of the Provincial Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether this is going to be a post-war programme or do they propose to bring this into effect even during the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We may bring it into effect during the war; but that will depend upon the ultimate decision of policy.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member give to the Members of the House an opportunity to discuss the policy of co-ordination by putting up a resolution to that effect.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member speak up?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member give the Members of the Assembly an opportunity to discuss this co-ordination by bringing a resolution before the House.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will consider that.

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

ROADS OPERATED FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC BY RAILWAYS

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

(a) whether any roads are operated for passenger traffic by the Railways themselves or by companies in which Railways have a major interest;

(b) if so, what those roads are; and

(c) how Government have disposed of the agencies who were already working in those lines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No railway so far is operating departmentally a road service for the carriage of passengers. The N. W. Railway, however, in 1938 negotiated a major interest in the North Western Transport Company and recently in Parry's Kulu Transport, Ltd. It has also negotiated a substantial interest in the Rawalpindi Kashmir Transport Ltd.

(b) The routes over which these companies are permitted to operate are:

Name of Transport Co.

Route

1. North Western Transport Co. Ltd.

(i) Lyallpur-Jhang.

(ii) Peshawar-Abbottabad.

(iii) Peshawar-Rawalpindi.

2. Parry's Kulu Transport Ltd.

Nagrota-Kulu-Manali (Punjab).

3. Rawalpindi-Kashmir Transport Ltd.

Rawalpindi-Srinagar.

(c) The question does not arise as the railway in the case of the North Western Transport Co. co-ordinates its services with the other road operators who were working at the time of the formation of the company, and in the case of the other two concerns the railway has associated itself with transport agencies previously operating on the routes in question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to clause (a), are the present operating companies run by the railways themselves or by the Companies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The companies.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: They are operated by companies with Railways having a major share?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, the first two.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Who are the managing agents of these companies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There are no managing agents. They are operated by the companies without managing agents.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How can that be? There must be some-one managing!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think they are run by a Managing Director. I would require notice of that question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the Government of India taking a large share in these companies, why do not the Government of India run these motor services themselves?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The principle is that we leave operation in the hands of people who thoroughly understand road operation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India are incapable of managing these bus services?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Government of India are not incapable of working up an organisation, but these concerns existed and were operated by efficient operators and the Government joined with them in their further operation.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Are the accounts of these companies audited by the Auditor-General or by private auditors?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would require notice of that.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How does the Government have any control over the finances of these companies and safeguard the interests of the tax-payers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are overseen by the North Western Railway. It is the North Western Railway which is associated with these companies and I have not the slightest doubt that they thoroughly examine the accounts. In the case of the North Western Transport Co., Ltd. (Lyallpur-Jhang route) there is a joint company, i.e., a company in which the railway owns the majority interests and which operates alongside a number of individual operators. They have a working arrangement between the individual operators, and the Government company, the North Western Transport Co., Ltd., I believe the railway does the booking and the company does the operation of the vehicles.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: This means that all the revenue derived through booking are put into the Government treasury according to what the system is on the railways. Or does the money go into the hands of the various operators?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In the Lyallpur-Jhang case it is a joint service. There are individual operators who continue to run under an agreement with the Government Company. In the case of the Government company the receipts come into the company and these are distributed in the ordinary way in which a company distributes its surplus.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does the revenue first go into the Government treasury or does it go into the private banks of the different companies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: You mean the receipts taken by the booking clerk?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I could not tell you how exactly they are handled, but they come into the coffers of the company.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government examined the question of forcing an effective financial control over the finances and management of such companies in which the railways have a major portion of shares?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As far as I am aware, there is effective control.

(At this stage Mr. N. M. Joshi rose thrice in his seat.)

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

PROPOSAL TO RUN ROAD TRANSPORT BY RAILWAYS IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

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

(a) whether there are any proposals to run road transport in the Madras Presidency through a transport agency in which the Railways will have a major interest;

(b) whether he has received any applications from any of the existing agencies to do this work;

(c) if so, what those agencies are; and

(d) when he expects to come to a conclusion on this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply to para. (a) of the Short Notice Question No. 7 asked by him on the 20th February 1945.

- (b) Yes.
 (c) I lay a list of applicants on the table of the House.
 (d) No decision can be taken until the Government of Madras intimate their final views.

List of Applicants

(i) *The M. & S. M. Railway :*

1. Royal Motor Service, Narasaravupet.
2. Gatti Subbaran, Cocanada.
3. Sri Satyanarayan Motor Service, Guntur.
4. City Motor Service, Madras.
5. Hindustan Commercial Transport Company, Bezwada.
6. Garage Ltd., Madras.
7. Dhanam & Co., Tirupati.
8. Sowriah Brothers, Narasaravupet.
9. Krishna & Sons, Kurnool.

(ii) *The S. I. Railway :*

1. Sri Lakshmiipathi Naidu, Mettupalayam.
2. The Garage Ltd., S. I. Ry. Street Delivery Contractors, Madras.
3. The Central Auto Parts Co., Madras.
4. N. V. G. B. Motor Service, Dindigul.
5. The New India Corporation, Madras.
6. Premnath Motors, Calcutta.
7. Varadaraja Motor Service, Karur.
8. Marappa Gounder & Co., Palghat.
9. The Kodaikanal Motor Union.
10. Rahim Bros. Motor Service, Periyakulam.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Othettiar: Have the Government of India imposed any time limit within which they should come to a decision?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. In the case of Madras we are entirely dependent upon a prior decision by that Government as to what their policy is to be.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Before that decision is taken are certain agencies being allowed to run these services?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The services at present are run by private companies, individuals or associations under license from the Government of Madras.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Are there any under this policy?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The policy has not been settled yet.

HARDSHIPS EXPERIENCED BY FIRST AND SECOND CLASS PASSENGERS AT LALA MUSA

617. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of first and second class berths accommodation generally available at Lala Musa, North Western Railway, for passengers on the 36 and 58 Down trains coming from Rawalpindi and Peshawar, respectively, and on the 57 and 35 Up trains coming from Lahore for passengers coming from Malakawal side;

(b) if it is a fact that ordinarily almost all the first and second class berths in the trains mentioned in (a) above are reserved and occupied from their stations of start and in the way till they reach Lala Musa; and

(c) whether it is in fact invariably impossible for the first and second class passengers, particularly females, to get accommodation in these trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to this and Starred Question No 618, together.

Government have no information on these matters of detail relating to train services and train timings involving the comfort and convenience of 1st and 2nd class passengers, which I suggest should be more appropriately taken up in the Local Advisory Committee than on the floor of this House. I am, however, bringing these two questions to the notice of the General Manager, North Western Railway, for such action as it may be possible to take.

HARDSHIPS EXPERIENCED BY FIRST AND SECOND CLASS PASSENGERS AT LALA MUSA

†618. *Khan Bahadur Shakh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that no reservation of berths is made at Lala Musa for passengers going to Lahore and Peshawar side on trains mentioned in the preceding question;

(b) if a third class bogey is attached to the 58 Down train for Lahore and a bogey having first and second class compartments is attached to 90 Down train for Khenra at Lala Musa (North Western Railway) Railway Station;

(c) if these bogies are made to stand in the yard and passengers are not allowed to occupy them before they are attached to their respective trains, unless they tip either the police constable on duty or any of the Railway Staff in charge;

(d) if it is a fact that more than often respectable upper class passengers who prefer to travel by third class than to wait for the morning trains for the whole night at Lala Musa are often insulted if they occupy these bogies before they are attached to their trains;

(e) in view of the facts above, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of placing the bogies at such places on the platforms or in the yard as to allow the passengers to conveniently occupy the bogies before they have attached to their respective trains as is done at Lahore and Delhi; and

(f) in view of the hardships and inconvenience to the first and second class passengers at Lala Musa to find accommodation in trains going to Lahore and Peshawar, whether it will be considered to make arrangements to attach bogies of first, second and inter-classes from Malakwal to Lahore and from Malakwal to Rawalpindi and Peshawar and *vice versa* both in the Up and Down directions?

TRAIN TIMINGS ON MALAKWAL BHERA BRANCH LINE

619. *Khan Bahadur Shakh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) With reference to the answer laid on the table in reply to my starred question No. 558(d), asked on the 17th November, 1944, regarding change in timings of trains on Malakwal Bhera Branch Line, will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if the matter was considered by the Time Table Committee of the Local Advisory Committee, and what was the result?

(b) When is a change in the time table expected?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, the question of train timings on the Bhera-Malakwal Section was discussed by the Time Table Sub-Committee of the North Western Railway Local Advisory Committee at their meeting on the 26th January 1945, when they were informed that arrangements were being made to revise the timings of 255 Up and 256 Down between Bhera and Malakwal, so that 255 Up will connect with 95 Up to Lala Musa, which in turn connects with 20 Down as well as 4 Down in the down direction and 19 Up in the Up direction. This decision has been accepted by the Sub-Committee and confirmed by the Local Advisory Committee.

(b) Presumably, the changes will be notified in the next issue of the time table. I am not able to say exactly when this will issue.

INDIAN CHRISTIANS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

620. *Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the total number of Indian Christians employed in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(b) How many of them are in receipt of salaries—(i) over 150 p.m., (ii) over 100 but below 150 p.m., and (iii) over 50 but below 100 p.m., and below 50 p.m.?

(c) Is it a fact that the number of Indian Christians employed in this Railway is below the quota to which they are entitled and that those in Service are mostly low paid servants?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to take steps to raise the number of Indian Christians in the service of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway to the quota to which they are entitled?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 617.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The required information will be found in Appendix C-I to the Indian Railways Administration Report, 1943-44, Volume II, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House:

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

(c) The percentage reserved for other minority communities, including Sikhs, Indian Christians and Parsis, is not distributed amongst these communities in any fixed proportion. Moreover, it applies only to vacancies open to direct recruitment.

(d) Does not arise.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is great dissatisfaction among the members of the Christian Community regarding the manner in which the quotas for all minority communities are lumped together and administered? Will he be prepared to consider the question of the division of the number of vacancies allotted to all minorities together now into shares for each minority on a population basis?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With regard to the particular question before the House I observe from the Administration Report to which I have referred that the increase in the number of Indian Christians on the O. T. Railway between the years 1942-43 and 1943-44 has been quite substantial. As regards the major question which the Honourable Member has raised I shall require notice of that.

OVERCROWDING ON TRAMWAYS AND BUSES IN CALCUTTA

621. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that there is terrible and intolerable congestion on tramways and buses in Calcutta and people do not find adequate accommodation and have to wait for hours sometimes to go to the places of work;

(b) how many tram-cars have been damaged and put out of order through reckless driving by the military lorries resulting in serious accidents and dislocation of tramline traffic;

(c) how many buses have been taken away for the purpose of A.R.P. and other auxiliary services;

(d) whether he proposes to see that such transport buses are released now in order to reduce congestion on existing transport facilities;

(e) whether it is a fact that 30 trams were ordered from the United Kingdom in 1942 and delivery of which has not taken place even now;

(f) whether he has investigated the possibility of obtaining trams and buses from other countries; and

(g) whether he still persists in his faith of the United Kingdom's possibility of delivering the trams in spite of the fact that the order placed in 1942 yet remains to be executed in the year 1945?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I understand that this is the case.

(b) The information has been called for from the Bengal Government and will be laid on the table of the House if the Bengal Government are in a position to provide it.

(c) 169.

(d) This is being done and 143 vehicles have already been replaced.

(e) I understand that the Calcutta Tramways Co. have been trying to obtain them since 1943.

(f) In so far as trams are concerned, the answer is in the negative. The requirements for buses are being met from the vehicles obtained from North America.

(g) The Company have informed the Provincial Government that there is every chance of these being available in the near future.

INADEQUATE LIGHTING, ETC., ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

622. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether he is aware that there is no proper arrangement for lights in the trains on the Bengal and Assam Railway;

(b) whether there have been increased thefts in trains;

(c) whether there is no arrangement for proper and regular supply of washing and drinking water either in trains or at the station on the Bengal and Assam Railway as there is on the East Indian and other Railways; and

(d) whether the Honourable Member proposes to take necessary steps to remove these inconveniences of the passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government is aware of the limited extent to which the Bengal and Assam Railway can provide lights in its trains at present.

(b) It is not clear what thefts are meant, but if this refers to bulbs, electric, and other carriage fittings, the reply is; "Yes".

(c) This is a matter which is constantly under review by the Local Advisory Committee and I have no reason to suppose that the arrangements are inadequate.

(d) Every effort is being made to speed up deliveries of train lighting bulbs from indigenous sources, to expedite supplies by importation in order to supplement indigenous supplies and to improve the arrangements for drinking and washing water.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Am I to understand that the Honourable Member admits that the Bengal and Assam Railway is worse off than the other railway systems in the supply of lights?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not admit that. I should require notice in order to ascertain how the B. and A. Railway compares in this matter with other railways.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: With reference to part (a) of the question, is it a fact that in certain parts of Assam trains are run without any lights in the compartment at all?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think that trains are run without any lights at all. Occasionally of course lights are stolen with the result that there is no light.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In certain parts of Assam, especially those parts which are under civilian control, trains are running without any lights at all. Will the Honourable Member make enquiries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of that. I shall look into it.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: With regard to part (b) of the question, is the Honourable Member aware that thefts of passengers' luggage and property take place due to the trains running without lights? Will the Honourable Member make enquiries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid that, generally speaking, thefts have increased on the railways and I am answering this particular point in my reply to the next question.

MISSING OF PARCELS AND GOODS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

623. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that missing of parcels and goods have become too frequent on the Bengal and Assam Railway in Assam?

(b) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to find out the causes and adopt necessary measures to stop the same?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The number of claims received by the B. & A. Railway has shown an upward trend and it can be inferred from this that the number of missing parcels and goods has increased in proportion.

(b) Government are aware of the major causes and the question of minimizing the number of missing goods and parcels is already receiving the active attention of railways and of the Railway Board.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the major causes?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Among the major causes are complexities of operation created by the war, heavy increase in traffic, congestion in goods and parcels sheds, increase in the price of consumers goods making thieving more profitable and the black out conditions making theft easier.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: There is one more reason and that is the diversion of goods by some circuitous route which creates a bottle-neck at some station. Will the Honourable Member make enquiries about that?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: To which particular route is the Honourable Member referring? When there is transshipment, there is of course greater risk of theft. I shall make enquiries.

TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES RE-SALT, SUGAR, ETC., IN ASSAM

624. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that people of Assam are experiencing great difficulties for not being able to get their quota of salt, sugar, cloth, etc., owing to transport difficulties?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to take necessary steps for providing Assam with transport facilities for taking the full quotas of the above mentioned articles in time?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I am aware that from time to time difficulties have been experienced but with the co-operation of the military authorities, sufficient transport is provided to meet the needs of the civil population of Assam. The Assam Government, who are responsible for apprising the transport authorities of their requirements for the import of essential civil goods, reported recently that "in spite of the very pressing demands of the war on transport, movement into Assam has been easy". During the six months ending the 31st December 1944, the total imports into Assam of Government supplies were 82,466 tons against 31,985 tons in the same period of 1943.

(b) The necessary steps have already been taken.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the priority given to salt?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: All these foodstuffs move under a programme and there is a quota for the movement of salt, sugar, foodgrains, dal, mustard oil and so on, into Assam. It is not a question of priority: it is a question of quota.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does the quota refer to wagons or to foodstuffs?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a quota of wagon loads, generally speaking.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the operation of the B. and A. Railway by the Americans anything to do with this shortage of supply of wagons for the transport of these commodities to Assam?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I was just reading out the report of the Assam Government which says that "in spite of the very pressing demands of the war on transport, movement into Assam has been easy." There is no shortage.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In view of the great and distressing shortage of salt in Assam, will the Honourable Member make enquiries in regard to that particular commodity?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. I have personally made investigations into that. There was at one time a shortage of salt, when I think there was also a slight shortage in Calcutta. Figures of stocks which I have in front of me appear to be very satisfactory at the present moment. The position of movement has improved since October and has been maintained. Whether there is any difficulty about distribution into the districts is another matter which lies outside the sphere of railway transport.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long is it since the Government of India have heard from the Assam Government and are the Government of India satisfied that there is no shortage of supplies of the commodities mentioned?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We have to take the word of the Assam Government and the report I have from them is a note by them on the stock position of imported commodities in Assam as on the 1st of January.

**SCHEDULED CASTES CLERKS TRANSFERRED FROM RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS
OFFICE TO RAILWAY BOARD**

635. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the total number of clerks transferred from the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi, to the office of the Railway Board since the commencement of the war, and how many of them belong to the scheduled castes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scheduled caste clerks employed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office who wish to serve in the Railway Board are not recommended by the Director even when there is a call from the Railway Board; and

(c) whether Government propose to make an enquiry into this matter with a view to see that scheduled caste clerks are fairly treated?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) 86 Clerks were transferred of whom one belongs to the Scheduled Castes.

(b) No. The number of Scheduled Caste clerks employed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is small and they are comparatively junior men in the lowest grades. Selection of men for transfer to the office of the Railway Board is based both on their suitability for work in that office and their willingness to be transferred and not only on the latter.

(c) It is not considered necessary to hold an enquiry.

Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Has the Honourable Member received any complaints of injustice from clerks belonging to the scheduled castes of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no information of any, Sir.

Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will he please consider if any such complaints are received from clerks belonging to the scheduled castes?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Any complaints on that score will certainly be considered.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that there is a paucity of clerks of this community in the Railway Board what steps are proposed to recruit them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This particular question relates to transfer of clerks from the Clearing Accounts Office to the Railway Board. There are, as I have said, very few Scheduled Caste clerks in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, 29 out of 2,000 clerks, and they are mostly in the junior grades.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I have understood that, Sir. In view of the fact that there is a paucity of members of this community in the Railway Board's office, I ask whether Government propose to take any steps to recruit more of them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government is not indifferent. Government has taken special steps to recruit more members of the Scheduled Caste, but as the Honourable Member knows, the steps must take time to show effect.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the steps?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If he will put down a question I will set them out in detail.

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE NAME OF DEHRI-ON-SONE RAILWAY STATION

636. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been approached now for the fifth time by Seth Ram Krishna Dalmia or his men with a proposal to change

the name of Dehri-on-Sone, a station on the East Indian Railway, to Dalmianagar;

(b) If he is aware that there is a strong feeling against this and the public and people of the place are carrying on agitation through the press and platform;

(c) if he is further aware that on each occasion when a proposal for change of name of Dehri-on-Sone was afoot, there had been strong agitation against this in the past and Government had to abandon the proposal in view of the strong feelings and sentiments of the public; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to drop the question in view of their past decisions as also of the present strong feelings and sentiments of the public?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b), (c) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given to Mr. Ramayan Prasad's starred question No. 1192 on the 6th April, 1938.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: May I know whether the Honourable Member will consider the public resentment at this?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Public resentment—which way?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Has Government received certain representations against the station's name?

SELECTION OF PRESS REPRESENTATIVES FOR TOUR ON RAILWAYS

627. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the replies to (e) and (f) of unstarred question No. 47, given on the 9th November, 1944, regarding Press Conference invited by the Railway Board to visit Railway workshops, etc., viz.: "There is no rule or convention concerning such consultation and Government are free to consult any Associations or persons they think fit", and state:

(a) the names of the Associations or persons who were consulted during the preceding three years; if none, the reasons therefor;

(b) if Government propose to consult in future both registered and unregistered Associations, Federations, Unions, etc.; if not, why not; and

(c) if Government received any protest against the nominees of the unregistered non-statutory Press Associations from the Orient Press of India (News Agency); if so, whether he proposes to lay that protest on the table of the House together with the action taken thereon, and if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justified in war time.

(b) Government will, in the future as in the past, consult those Associations, etc., as may be most appropriate to the occasion.

(c) I cannot trace the receipt of any such protest. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

RESERVATION OF BERTHS AT DELHI RAILWAY STATION BY CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

628. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of the Honourable Members of this House who requisitioned for reserved berths from Delhi in First and Second class compartments separately during the preceding six months;

(b) if the accommodation was provided; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the arrangement Government have made for providing accommodation to and from Delhi for the Honourable Members who may be required to leave on a very short notice; if no arrangements have been provided, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I regret that it is not possible to compile this information without an expenditure of time and labour which would not be justified in war time. The Honourable Member will no

doubt realise that to compile this information it would be necessary to scrutinise all the entries in the Reservation Registers for the last six months.

(c) No special arrangements have been made by Government except for journeys to and from Sessions of the Assembly. To devise any working arrangement whereby Honourable Members could at any time secure reserved accommodation for their journeys at short notice would involve the setting up of a system of "passenger priorities", an expedient which, on examination, Government have found to be impracticable in the present conditions of passenger traffic.

RAILWAY MEMBER'S VISIT TO DELHI RAILWAY STATION

629. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that he paid an official visit to Delhi junction station or on about the 27th October, 1944; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if he has seen the condition of the waiting rooms, passenger halls; if so, with what result;

(c) if the water taps of the wash-hand basins and baths in the waiting rooms were in order and running after the opening of the water taps in the other rooms; if not, what steps he has ordered to be taken; if none, why not; and

(d) if he was satisfied with the arrangements made for the stay of Indian Commissioned Officers in Delhi while in transit; if not, the steps he proposes to take to make their stay in Delhi comfortable and to relieve the over-crowding in waiting rooms; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I visited Delhi Junction station on October 28th to inspect the lay out and working of the yard.

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of paying another visit and examining the conditions so that he can satisfy himself in what condition bath rooms are being kept there?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is not the function of the War Transport Member to visit all the lavatories on the railways.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not his function, Sir, to see that the railway services are kept in good condition?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is the function of the Administrations.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it the intention of Government to provide a separate room for military officers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a new point which I have not considered.

RELAXING OF RULE RE-PRODUCTION OF TICKETS AT RESERVATION IN THE CASE- OF CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

630. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Does the Honourable Member for Railways propose to consider the desirability of relaxing the Rules regarding production of tickets for reservation in the case of the Honourable Members of this House and their staff due to the inconvenience caused for attending at the Reservation Office and to their unexpected and unavoidable movements; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, as the reservation of accommodation without the purchase of tickets could only be on a provisional basis, which would not be of advantage to Honourable Members.

POLICY RE-CATERING CONTRACTS ON RAILWAYS

†631. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the principles observed in giving contracts for refreshments and foodstuffs on various Railways in India?

(b) How many contractors cater refreshments on the East Indian Railway?

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

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The principles observed are those laid down by the Central Advisory Council for Railways from time to time, and I would refer the Honourable Member to the Summaries of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways held on 3rd October 1933, 16th September 1939 and 15th to 18th March 1940.

(b) Ten.

DISCONTINUANCE OF TELEPHONES OF PRIVATE SUBSCRIBERS

632. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to refer to his reply to starred question No. 540, dated the 17th November, 1944, regarding discontinuance of telephones of private subscribers and state:

(a) if he has made sure that no political considerations were involved in the disconnecting of various telephones from private premises;

(b) why the telephonic connections from the residences of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Kailash Nath Katju were taken away at Allahabad;

(c) if the money due to subscribers whose telephones were thus disconnected, refunded to them for the unexpired periods for which payments had been taken in advance;

(d) if his Department has received applications for re-connection of telephones thus removed;

(e) if the department is considering the matter;

(f) the exact position of a District Magistrate in the matter of ordering the disconnection of telephones from private premises; and

(g) whether the Honourable Member has made sure that payment of subscriptions to war loans has not been made a condition precedent to the grant of telephone connections and the payment of the same has not brought back the telephone that had been taken away?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) As stated in the reply to the Honourable Member's starred question No. 540 on the 17th November, 1944, telephones of private subscribers have been disconnected to meet the requirements of essential subscribers for war purposes or to avoid excessive overloading. Some private subscribers have been disconnected under the orders of District Magistrates under rule 17 of the Defence of India Rules. Government are not aware of the considerations which led the District Magistrates to pass the orders.

(b) The telephone connection at the residence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was closed on 6th January 1943 in accordance with the advice received from the Collector of Allahabad as the building was reported to have been locked up by the Police. No telephone of Dr. Kailash Nath Katju was taken away. The Honourable Member is probably referring to the telephone of Mr. S. N. Katju. This telephone, along with a number of others was removed in order to provide for more essential military and A.R.P. connections and to reduce the load on the Exchange.

(c) Yes, on application. Where no applications have so far been made the amounts are lying in deposit and refunds will be granted as soon as an application is made.

(d) Yes, in a number of cases.

(e) Every application received is duly considered.

(f) I would refer the honourable member to rule 17 of the Defence of India Rules. Under sub-rule (1) of this rule the Director General has authorised District Magistrates, among others, to exercise the powers conferred by that rule.

(g) No such condition has been prescribed but some of those who apply for telephone connections mention that they have subscribed to war loans and urge this as a consideration for the grant of their request.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know what considerations Government have when they take away particular telephone connections. The Honourable Member said that certain telephone connection were taken off in order to reduce the load. How is it that particular connections are taken off and not others? What is the basis of their consideration in the matter?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The first question to decide is whose connections are less important and whose are more important. In order to decide this question the usual thing is to constitute and consult an Advisory Committee in each important place. On that Committee there are the District Magistrate, the local Telephone Officer, and some non-official representatives who are selected by the District Magistrate. The subscribers' list is placed before this Committee, and the Committee is told that it is necessary to take off so many connections. The Committee goes through the list and decides which subscribers' telephones should be taken away and in which order. The main consideration is whether the particular work of the subscriber is essential for the war effort or not.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the reply to part (b) of the question, has the Honourable Member made sure that the house of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was actually locked up on the 6th of January, because his house was never locked up at all?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Well, Sir; that is the report that I have got here.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is he mixing up Anand Bhawan with Swaraj Bhawan?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The report I have got is this:

"The telephone connection at the residence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was closed on the 6th January 1943, in accordance with the instructions of the Collector of Allahabad, as the building was reported to have been locked up by the police."

It was obvious that if the building was locked up by the police there was no sense in leaving the telephone inside.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member make sure about the facts of the case, because I believe there is some confusion? The portion of the premises that Pandit Motilal Nehru gave to the nation is called Swaraj Bhawan and that was the portion that was locked up; while the residential portion, called Anand Bhawan, was never locked up. The Home Member knows everything about it and he will be able to help. Will the Honourable Member make sure about this because a grave injustice has been done?

(No answer was given.)

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

DISCRIMINATION AS REGARDS BASIC PAY OF FOREMEN, ETC., IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

633. *Mr. Frank E. Anthony: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that before July, 1931, there was no difference in basic pay as between Asiatic and non-Asiatic Foremen, Assistant Foremen and Chargemen in Ordnance Factories?

(b) Is it a fact that since July, 1931, these Asiatic personnel get a revised and much lower scale of pay than non-Asiatic personnel?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the differences of basic salaries as they exist, at present, between Asiatic and non-Asiatic personnel in the cadres of Foremen, Assistant Foremen and Chargemen?

(d) What is the reason for this differential treatment and discrimination in scales of pay as between Asiatic and non-Asiatic personnel who are doing exactly the same work and performing the same duties?

(e) Do Government propose to see that the present differences are done away with and the scales granted to Asiatics, in Ordnance factories, before 1931 are restored?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) I place on the table of the house a statement giving the requisite information.

(d) and (e). Revised scales of pay were introduced for personnel of Asiatic domicile in accordance with the general policy of Government. These had effect from the 28th September 1931. At that time it was decided not to introduce revised scales for personnel of non-Asiatic domicile as it was

thought that men with the requisite qualifications would not be obtainable if the scales were lower. Admittedly, it might have been formally more correct to have applied the revised scales of pay to personnel both of Asiatic and non-Asiatic domicile and to have adjusted the rates of overseas pay for the latter accordingly. This was not done. To do it now would be a formidable administrative task which would have no effect on total emoluments and cannot be undertaken during the war.

Scales of pay in force for non-gazetted technical staff employed in Ordnance Factories

	Old scales of pay applicable to staff of non-Asiatic domicile and staff of Asiatic domicile recruited up to the 27th September 1931.	New scales of pay applicable to staff of Asiatic domicile recruited after the 27th September 1931.
Principal Foreman	Ra. 600—20—700 <i>plus*</i> Rs. 75 increase of pay.	475—15—535.
Foreman	Ra. 500—20—600 <i>plus*</i> Rs. 75 increase of pay. after 10 years 650	400—15—475 (Efficiency Bar)— 25/5—500.
Assistant Foreman	Ra. 375—15—435 <i>plus*</i> Rs. 75 increase of pay. 6th year —450 8th year —470 10th year —490	300—12—360 (Efficiency Bar)— 15/2—390.
Chargeman	Ra. 200—10—300, after 5 years Rs. 350.	Ra. 170—10—250 (Efficiency Bar)— 40/4—290.

* For those of non-Asiatic domicile only.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: May I ask if these non-Asiatics were recruited from outside India or were these persons living in India during the war and they were recruited here; and if they were living in India, what salaries were they getting and why this differentiation has been made?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I must have notice of that question. I cannot say what salaries each individual was getting; but they are all of non-Asiatic domicile.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How did they come to India if they were from outside, and does it mean that South Africans are getting preference along with the other non-Asiatics?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am not aware that any South African is here at all in these services.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With reference to the answer to part (c), is the Honourable Member aware of the anomalies that this policy has led to, for instance, a fairly junior non-Asiatic assistant foreman often draws very much more than the basic emoluments of a senior Asiatic foreman?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes; I am aware of that anomaly and that has been brought to my notice. The way to adjust that anomaly is to grant overseas pay and to have equal basic pay for both Asiatic and non-Asiatic domicile men. But while that would remove the anomaly it would not in any way interfere with the scales of pay actually drawn, and that is a task which I feel it is not possible to undertake at the present moment.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will Government consider restoring the 1931 scales to Asiatic personnel? That will solve the problem, because you have really highly qualified Asiatic personnel and it is felt that there was no justification for having introduced these revised scales. Will Government consider restoring the old scales?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: At the present time there is no intention of reconsidering the question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to the statement made by the Honourable Member that these revised scales of pay were introduced as part of the general policy of Government, is it not a fact that apart from getting the higher basic pay, the persons of non-Asiatic domicile employed in these services also get an overseas pay?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Not in these services, according to my information.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member look up the rates of pay admissible to these two classes of persons because I have myself seen them?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have placed just now on the table of the House a statement of the rates of pay. The Honourable Member may look into it.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask whether these non-Asiatics have been employed during the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: A certain number, yes.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Are they refugees?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No; they are men specially recruited with great trouble and we have not been able to get the requisite number of men.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made. . . . ?

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

OCCUPATION OF SERVANTS COMPARTMENTS BY PERSONS IN MILITARY UNIFORM

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

(a) if it is a fact that persons in some sort of military uniform occupy servants' compartments in Railway trains and prevent *bona fide* servants of first and second class passengers from boarding those compartments;

(b) if Railway Officers are unable to help in this matter even when appealed to; and

(c) if he would consider the desirability of circularising Railways to permit servants to travel with their masters in such circumstances?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I understand that this sometimes happens.

(b) No; railway officials are often able to help, and I am informed that Military Movement Control personnel have frequently assisted in the removal of other than *bona fide* servants of upper class passengers.

(c) No; as this would only add to the congestion in upper class compartments and would quite rightly be resented by those passengers who were travelling either without servants or whose servants had found accommodation elsewhere.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (d), does the Honourable Member know that railway staff themselves help outsiders to get into the servants' compartments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have said that the railway officials are often able and willing to help in the other direction. I have personally frequently seen evidence of that.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: But may I inform the Honourable Member that I have seen myself in many cases the staff allowing other people to enter into the servants compartments and not helping the servants of the first and second class passengers to get into them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no doubt that that occasionally happens; but if he would be good enough to give me information I should be able to deal with it.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member says that this occasionally happens, may I know what exactly I should do when that occasion arises?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Mention the matter to the senior railway official present.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: And if, when I do draw his attention to this, he says he is unable to do anything, what then am I to do?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Report the matter, if it merits report, to higher authority.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I inform the Honourable Member that I had to bring my servant in the first class compartment this time under similar circumstances?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I hope the Honourable Member paid the excess fare!

INSIDE BOLTS AND CATCHES IN COMPARTMENTS

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

(a) if it is a fact that first and second class compartments are provided with bolts and catches on the inside, which enable passengers to lock up their compartments at night and prevent passengers at wayside stations to come in the compartments even when room is available;

(b) if similar bolts and catches are not provided in Intermediate and Third class compartments; and

(c) if he proposes to take steps to remove such bolts and catches from the higher class compartments or to provide them in lower classes as well?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Bolts and catches are provided in first and second class compartments for the safety of passengers and their luggage. Station Masters or other competent railway servants at wayside stations can and do wake up occupants of compartments, where necessary, if room is available for other passengers.

(b) No, except in those reserved for ladies.

(c) If there is any general feeling that such bolts and catches be removed from the upper class compartments or be provided in lower class as well, Government have no doubt that members of the Local Advisory Committee on the various Railways will bring it up for discussion at their meetings.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, may I know if the Honourable Member is more concerned about the comfort and safety of the first and second class passengers than of the intermediate and third class passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; not at all. But the position is that there is no sleeping accommodation in the third class and that is why there are no bolts because when the passenger goes to sleep it is desirable that he should be able to bolt the door so that no one may intrude without his knowledge.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that in several cases, even when the guards themselves ask these bolts to be removed and the doors should be opened, the passenger refuses to do so and the guards are helpless and the passengers who wish to find berths are very much inconvenienced?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes. The Honourable Member is of course censuring the passengers—not the railway administration. But such passengers are liable to a penalty.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask, Sir, if Government will consider the possibility of providing latches which can be operated from inside and opened by the guard with a key from outside, as is done in some of the continental trains in Europe?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am glad of the suggestion. Of course it could not be done all at once. . . . (Interruption by Prof. N. G. Ranga.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should not be constantly interrupting like this.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a suggestion which I will have put before the people who are considering the post-war designs of coaches.

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

RENOVATION OF DUFFERIN RAILWAY BRIDGE AT BENARES

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

(a) what progress has been made in the renovation of the Dufferin Railway Bridge at Benares;

(b) if he is satisfied with the present condition of the Bridge; and

(c) when he expects the Bridge to be reconstructed in accordance with the programme in that behalf?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) 3,000 tons of fabricated steel have been delivered to the Railway. Fabrication of the rest of the steelwork is continuing, and tools and plan are being collected at the site. At the request of the War Department work at the site was postponed and is now expected to commence in October 1945.

(b) The present condition of the Bridge is not satisfactory, but it can safely continue in service under existing restrictions until reconstructed. The reconstruction has been delayed by more urgent War requirements.

(c) According to the present programme, the reconstruction of the bridge should be completed by February 1949.

CAUSE OF RECENT DERAILMENT OF PUNJAB MAIL

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

(a) if it is a fact that some responsible officer of the Bihar Government was reported to have said that a certain political party was responsible for the recent derailment of the Punjab Mail; and

(b) if enquiries made by Government in the accident have justified the statement of the officer concerned?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that the Governor of Bihar did say that this derailment was due to the activities of the Congress Socialist Party?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of that. It is not a fact.

PAY ON CONFIRMATION OF APPRENTICES OF THE DINAPORE SHEDS

638. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state year by year from 1928—1936, the number of persons who completed their apprenticeship in the Dinapore Sheds in 1929 and who were confirmed in the old East Indian Railway scale, grade II (Rs. 90—20—250)?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please state whether some of the persons referred to in (a) above, after drawing their salaries regularly in the old scale for about six or seven years were informed that they had been wrongly confirmed in the old scale and that they were eligible only for the new scale of pay in accordance with the Agent's Circular No. 485/AE-388, dated the 1st October, 1928?

(c) Is it a fact that the circular referred to in (b) above lays down that "such of the existing staff as elect to accept the revised scales may be permitted to do so on the distinct understanding that once this option is exercised they cannot under any circumstances be allowed to revert to the old scales"?

(d) Was the Agent's circular of 1928 brought to the notice of each of the officers concerned, and were they at the time of confirmation given the option of electing the old or the new scales of pay in accordance with the instructions contained in the circular? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have no detailed information regarding the number of persons described in this part of the question and the year in which they completed their apprenticeship.

(b) and (c). The reply is in the affirmative but the sentence quoted by the Honourable Member applied only to subordinates in permanent service on the 1st October 1928. The old scale of pay refers to that in existence before that date and the new scale to what is termed the co-ordinated scale.

(d) Staff who were not confirmed prior to the 1st October 1928 were on confirmation, eligible for the co-ordinated scales of pay only and the question of an option did not arise in their case.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member made any inquiry as to how this mistake came to be made and how is it again that this mistake was allowed to continue for six years and some persons were made to suffer for that mistake?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. I have not yet made an inquiry into this but I will do so.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Honourable Member consider the legal aspect—in that the Railway offered to these persons certain conditions; these persons through no fault of their own accepted those conditions and that contract was implemented by the railway. Will the Honourable Member see that the onus of this mistake does not fall on the railway employees?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: All relevant facts are considered.

PAY ON CONFIRMATION OF APPRENTICES OF THE DINAPORE SHEDS

***639. Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that in Minute Sheet No. A.W.-2464, dated the 19th June, 1935, it was decided that those apprentices who were absorbed in the permanent establishment without break of service before July, 1931, would automatically receive the old scale of pay? Is it also a fact that provision has been made in Minute Sheet No. A.W.-2664, dated the 19th June, 1935, for giving old scale of pay to the apprentices who were absorbed in the permanent establishment without break of service before July, 1931?

(b) Is it a fact that old scales of pay have been allowed to improvers who were absorbed prior to 1st November, 1928? If so, why has an exception been made in the case of some officers referred to in parts (a) and (b) of the preceding question who were initially improvers?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the facts stated above and rectify the injustice done to a number of officers who *bona fide* accepted service on the old scale of pay and who after a number of years were called upon to accept new scale of pay for no fault of their own?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative except that the old scales referred to were either those in existence before 1928 or the co-ordinated scale according to the scale for which individuals were eligible.

(b) As explained in part (d) of reply to the preceding question, the old scales of pay, i.e., those in existence before 1928, did not apply to staff who were confirmed after the date of issue of the orders introducing the co-ordinated scales of pay, viz., 1st October, (not 1st November), 1928.

(c) Government do not consider that any injustice has been done.

APPOINTMENT OF CAPTAIN J. P. WILLIAMS AS SALVAGE OFFICIAL

***640. Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state if it is a fact that Captain J. P. Williams, an Australian, is being imported from Commonwealth of Australia as a Salvage official for India?

(b) Are the Government of India aware that the import of foreigners is being resented by Indians?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Captain Williams, of the Australian Commonwealth Salvage Board, is being employed by a Port Authority in India for a short period in connection with the salvage of a wrecked vessel. He is not being imported into India to take up an official appointment.

(b) This question does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long will he be employed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Until the job is done.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member said 'short period'. Is there any time limit?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: He has been imported to do a particular job and his work will be finished when that job is done.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Is the period of his work co-terminous with his stay in India of his own choice?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No. He will stay until his job is finished.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Have any Indians been appointed in Australia?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is his pay on a contract basis or a monthly basis?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On a monthly basis.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelum Chetty: What is the particular salvage that this particular officer is concerned with?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: His work is in connection with the salvage of a vessel which has been sunk in a port and which presents peculiar salvage difficulties.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelum Chetty: Previous to this, who was attending to this work?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Previously various people in India were attending to this work and they were unable to get a satisfactory solution as to how to raise the vessel. That is why we had to import this particular expert who had had experience of this sort of work.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelum Chetty: Have those in India proved themselves inefficient to discharge their duties?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not inefficient, Sir. There are particular difficulties about this particular problem.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any official going to be appointed to salvage the Government of India?

ESTABLISHMENT OF AEROPLANE INDUSTRY.

641. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if it is a fact that Australia has, since the War, not only established the manufacture of aluminium and a large rolling mill but also the manufacture of aeroplanes?

(b) What information have Government got on the progress of Australia in this manner, and what is the capital and number of men and the output of the enterprises mentioned in each of the three factories?

(c) How many schemes for the manufacture or assembling of aeroplanes were started in India?

(d) Which of them are now functioning?

(e) Have Government considered whether this industry will be established in India, and, if so, at the hands of the State or under private enterprise? What progress, if any, has been made in this direction?

(f) How many assembling plants exist in India at present?

(g) How many of them have been established by (i) the Government of India, (ii) the British Government, and (iii) the Government of the United States of America?

(h) What is the arrangement with regard to these plants after the war?

(i) Have Government taken care that these plants will remain and function? If so, how is it proposed that they should be controlled, directed and managed in future?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Government are aware that, while Australia had certain aircraft resources at the outbreak of the war, manufacture has very largely been established since the war began. Government are also aware that Australia has made provision for establishing an aluminium industry but they have no information about a rolling mill.

(b) In the first five years of the war Australia is reported to have produced about 8,000 aircraft of all types. Government have no further information.

(c) One for manufacture and one for assembling.

(d) Owing to difficulties in obtaining supplies of materials for the manufacturing programme and the urgent need for repair and maintenance capacity the scheme for manufacture had to be abandoned and the factory for manufacture is now engaged on repair and maintenance work. The Assembling unit is still functioning as such.

- (e) The matter is under the consideration of the Government of India.
- (f) One, excluding those operated by the Services themselves.
- (g) One, by the Government of India.
- (h) and (i). These matters are under the consideration of Government of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know what proposal there is in order to equip India, for security reasons, for the manufacture and not merely repair of aeroplanes in future?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is under consideration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is under consideration? What is the proposal?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The question whether aircraft can be manufactured in India or ought to be manufactured in India and if so under what circumstances, for what purposes and so on.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the Government of India has not even considered anything for five years, while the Australian Government have already in the first five years of the war produced 3,000 aircraft of all types?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Government of India is different from the Australian Government.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: My Honourable friend has answered that question for me.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is this going to be a post-war scheme?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes, Sir.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS.

(Postponed from February 15, 1945)

INDIA SUPPLY MISSION IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

280. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state:

(a) whether the Government of India contemplate a change in the status and in the personnel of the India Supply Mission in the United States of America; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what the reasons are that have prompted the Government of India to make this change?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). The Government of India have decided in view of the stage which the work of the India Supply Mission has now reached and in view of the additional powers recently vested in the Agent-General of general supervision over the activities of all Missions and organisations accredited to the United States by the Government of India that permanent officials of the Government of India should be appointed to such Missions and organisations. Mr. K. C. Mahindra, a businessman, who was till recently head of the Mission has therefore relinquished his charge and the Government of India have decided to appoint Mr. J. Vesugar of the Indian Service of Engineers as head of the India Supply Mission in U.S.A. in succession to Mr. Mahindra. Mr. Vesugar was till recently Chief Engineer in the Punjab and is now Industrial Adviser to Planning and Development Department of the Government of India. Mr. Vesugar will shortly be proceeding to U.S.A. to take up his appointment. Meanwhile the Indian Trade Commissioner at New York, Mr. S. K. Kirpalani, has temporarily taken charge of the post as head of the India Supply Mission.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if he is aware that for over three months the talk has been current that the Government of India are finding Mr. Mahindra rather inconvenient and are contemplating a change? Has the change been made because of the fact that Mr. Mahindra was found to be inconvenient?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, I should protest against Honourable Members, by way of supplementary questions,

importing gossip and rumour for which they do not find themselves any verification. There is no truth at all in the suggestion that has been made in the supplementary question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member referred to certain additional powers that have been conferred upon the Agent General, as a consequence of which this change in the organisation was necessary. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate what additional powers have been conferred upon him and the reasons for the conferment of such additional powers on him?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The additional powers are of general supervision over the activities of all missions. It was considered desirable that when a trade mission or a Trade Commissioner has the necessity of approaching at a high level American authorities, it was better done if that approach is made through diplomatic representative of the Government of India. It is those powers that have been referred to in the answers.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Did the India Supply Mission at any time report that they were finding it inconvenient to contact the required official authorities without the intervention of the Agent General?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir, the India Supply Mission did not report that.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Did the Government of India satisfy themselves that the India Supply Mission was experiencing no such difficulty?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Government of India were satisfied that a more satisfactory course would be that on such rare occasions, the Agent General should come into the picture.

INDIA SUPPLY MISSION IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

281. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state:

(a) whether before the India Supply Mission in the United States of America places an order in the United States of America, the matter has to be referred to the British Embassy and through it to some agency in Britain; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there are delays in placing orders arising from following this procedure?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(Postponed from February 23, 1945)

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF INDIA SUPPLY MISSION IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

506. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if it is a fact that the India Supply Mission in the United States of America is going to be transferred to the control of the India Agency-General in the United States of America? If so, what are the reasons for this transfer?

(b) Has the opinion of the India Supply Mission been obtained on the proposal? If so, will the Honourable Member state the substance of the opinion?

(c) In what respects, if any, will such transfer affect the practical functioning of the Mission from day to day, and the official relations between the Mission and the Supply Department?

(d) Is it proposed to consult the organisations representing Indian Commerce in India, regarding the advisability of the proposed transfer?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). I invite attention to the reply I have just given to Question No. 280 of the Honourable Member Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.

(c) No. These will be unaffected.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know whether the Honourable Member replied to part (b) of the question:

"Has the opinion of the India Supply Mission been obtained on the proposal?"

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir, the opinion of the India Supply Mission has not been invited?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Was it considered unnecessary or superfluous to obtain the opinion of such an important person in the Indian commercial world as Mr. Mahindra before a change was made?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The additional powers that were conferred upon the Agent General were conferred as a matter of policy at a high level of including supervision over all agencies accredited to the United States of America by the Government of India and so no agency which was there in the United States of America was consulted on this issue.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: The Honourable Member was talking of some high level. Will the Honourable Member indicate what is the altitude fixed?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: As high as New Delhi.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the past two incumbents of this job on the India Supply Mission happen to be non-officials and now an official is being appointed, is it the opinion of the Government that experienced non-officials are either not forthcoming or that they are not a happy choice and that therefore they should try the experiment of appointing officials?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir. The Supply Department is quite satisfied and is grateful for the work that has been done by non-official heads of the India Supply Mission. I think Honourable Members have not sufficiently realised the importance of another phrase which was used in this reply "in view of the stage which the work of the India Supply Mission has now reached". This work of the two non-official Indian gentlemen has now reached a stage when permanent officials could carry on the work under the supervision of the Agent General.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member explain in some detail the particular stage at which these activities have reached? I am afraid I cannot follow what is the stage that has been reached and that requires implementing by permanent officials?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The thing has been set more or less on working level now, all the initial difficulties which arose from time to time have all been overcome.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government considered the advisability of associating one or two non-officials with this official who is appointed as the head of the India Supply Mission in order to help him in understanding the non-official view point so far as the business world of India is concerned?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The India Supply Mission is engaged in the task of getting supplies for the Government of India for war purposes, and I do not see where the help of non-officials in this matter would arise at the other end.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Do I take it that while the problem presented certain difficulties, the permanent officials were not competent to deal with those matters and the non-officials were competent enough to resolve those difficulties; and now that these difficulties do not exist, the permanent officials may carry on the administration in a routine and humdrum fashion?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir. That is not the implication of my answer. My answer implied that at the stage at which it has reached, high businessmen may usefully be employed on other work.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HIGHER GRADE OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE COAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

38. Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please lay on the table of the House the information promised by him in reply to part (c) of my starred question No. 16 on the 1st November, 1944, regarding higher grade officers employed in the Coal Commissioner's Office?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The information was laid on the table of the House on the 23rd February 1945. As the Directorate of Open Cut Coal Mining is in the process of being staffed, it has not been possible to include information regarding officers of that Directorate.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER POSTS AND AIR DEPARTMENT

39. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p.m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I regret that the information is not readily available and its collection would involve an expenditure of time and labour that would not be justified in war time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

40. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The collection of the information asked for by the Honourable Member will involve a great deal of expenditure of time and labour out of all proportion to the results that are likely to be obtained. The attention of the Honourable Member is, however, invited to the information I gave in reply to starred question No. 107 in the 1944 Autumn Session of the Legislative Assembly.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

41. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I regret that I am unable to collect the information required by the Honourable Member, as its collection would involve an amount of labour that would be unjustifiable in war-time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

42. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 500 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret I cannot undertake to collect the information in the present circumstances.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

43. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 500 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret that the information required is not readily available, and the preparation of a complete statement would involve an outlay of time and labour that is not justifiable in War time.

NON-PROVISION OF FREE QUARTERS FOR ELIGIBLE RAILWAY SERVANTS IN DELHI

44. Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state why some of those railway servants in Delhi who are not entitled to free housing accommodation as per term of their service are provided with accommodation by Railway on rent when there are many who are entitled for free housing accommodation and are not provided with Railway quarters?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Persons entitled to free quarters are those who, prior to 1928, when the rules were revised, held a post which carried the concession of free quarters, and who now hold posts in the same categories. There are only a limited number of Railway quarters which are allotted in order of priority to those who have to live near their work be they entitled to free quarters or not. If they are not entitled to free quarters these pay rent. Some of those entitled to free quarter under the old rules cannot be accommodated and are given an allowance in lieu in accordance with long standing practice.

PRIVILEGES TO STATE RAILWAY SERVANTS

45. Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the various privileges allowed to State Railway servants (superior non-Gazetted) working (i) on line and (ii) in administrative offices, e.g., Divisional Superintendent's Office, Chief Commercial Manager's Office, General Manager's Office; and the Railway Board in matters of free uniform, railway passes, education of children, transport facilities when on transfer, free housing accommodation and medical attendance, etc.?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Information regarding the various privileges admissible to State Railway (Superior) non-gazetted servants is given below or contained in the publication (a copy of which is in the Library of the House) shown against each item:-

	Line Staff.	Office Staff.
Free Uniforms	State Railway General Code, Volume I, Rule 1307	Nil.
Railway Passes	A statement giving the required information was laid on the table in reply to Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani's Starred Question No. 7 in the Legislative Assembly on 14th September 1942.	
Education of children	State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, Chapter XI.	
Transport facilities on transfer.	State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, Chapter II, Section IV.	
Free Housing Accommodation.	State Railway Code for the Engineering Department, Chapter XIX.	Nil.
Medical Attendance	State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, Chapter IX.	

Information regarding other privileges, such as Travelling allowances Compensatory allowances, Leave, Provident Fund (including special contribution) and gratuity, will be found in the State Railway Establishment Code.

CONSOLIDATED ALLOWANCE TO SPECIAL TICKET EXAMINERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AND TO TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

46. Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the consolidated allowance paid to the Special Ticket Examiners on the North Western Railway and to the Travelling Ticket Examiners on the East Indian Railway forms part of their pay; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that the said allowance is calculated on 25 days' average working in a month and daily allowance at the rate of Re. 1 per day; if not, what the fact is on both these two Railways respectively;

(c) if it is a fact that the daily allowance rate of Re. 1 per day has, with effect from the 1st March, 1944, been increased by 50 per cent., that is instead of Re. 1, it has now been fixed at Re. 1-8 per day, if not, what the fact is; and

(d) if the Central Government have also increased the consolidated allowance of those staff by 50 per cent.; if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. Travelling allowance is not in the nature of pay.

(b) No. The sanctioning of consolidated travelling allowance is within the competence of General Managers subject mainly to the following conditions:—

(i) No such allowances shall be granted unless the Railway servant has to be absent from his headquarters on duty for more than 20 days in a month on the average.

(ii) The allowance must be so fixed as not to be a source of profit and shall be so calculated as to be equivalent as far as possible to the travelling allowance admissible under the Rules if consolidated travelling allowance were not granted.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) The Railway Department have increased the consolidated travelling allowance by 25 per cent. in conformity with that allowed to other Central Government Servants.

LUGGAGE GUARDS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

47. Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- the scales of pay of the Luggage Guards on the North Western Railway;
- their sanctioned and actual strength in each stage of the scales of pay;
- their method of recruitment and procedure of promotion from one stage to another of the time scales of pay;
- their distribution into Headquarters; and
- the comparative scales of pay on the other State-managed Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There are no separate scales of pay for Luggage Guards. They are, as a general rule, Guards—Grade II, whose scale of pay is Rs. 40-3-52-4-60-8-68 (old)/30-5-50-5/2-60. (Revised); but those in higher grades are also employed as Luggage Guards in the exigencies of the service.

(b) According to the information available with the Government, the position in November 1944 was as follows:

Scale of pay	Sanctioned strength.	Actuals.
<u>Rs. 75—5—105—10—115 (old)</u>		
<u>Rs. 100—10/2—120</u>		
65—5/2—85 (New)	1	16
<u>Rs. 40—3—52—4—60—8—68 (old)</u>		
<u>Rs. 30—5—50—5/2—60 (new)</u>	104	89

(c) The method of direct recruitment of Guards is given in Appendix II to the State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. I, a copy of which is in Library of the House. A certain percentage of the vacancies in this category is filled by the promotion of staff in other categories, and Guards who fail in the vision tests are also eligible for absorption as Luggage Guards. The grant of increments from one stage to another of a time-scale of pay is governed by Rule 2020 of State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. II.

(d) The information is given below:

Headquarters.	Number of Luggage Guards.
Bhatinda	11
Ambala	7
Bahawalnagar	3
Karachi	7
Kotri	6
Rohri	4
Lyallpur	4
Multan	4
Samasatta	7
Khanewal	2
Rawalpindi	14
Lahore	28
Baharanpur	10

(e) The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

NON-AVAILABILITY OF MOTOR VANS FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

48. Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that, if and when a Member of the Central Legislature desired to transport his Motor Car by rail to and from Delhi, he was never provided with the Motor Van during the preceding year; if not so, what the fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that Motor Vans are only supplied to those Government officials who are transferred from one station to the other permanently, if not so, what the fact is; and

(c) whether Government now propose to provide the Honourable Members of the Central Legislature with Motor Vans for the transport of Motor Cars, if and when desired; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:—(a) No. Many movements of motor cars to and from Delhi have been arranged on the requests of Members of the Central Legislature to Priority Officers of the War Transport Department.

(b) No. Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities have instructed Railways in their regions to move Government motor cars and motor cars which are the property of officers on transfer, but in addition other movements are made under specific orders of the Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities.

(c) Instructions have been issued to Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities that on receipt of applications from Honourable Members of the Central Legislature they are to arrange the movement of Motor Cars which are the property of Honourable Members, to and from Delhi. Ordinarily the movement will be for one return journey of one motor car per Honourable Member on the occasion of each session of the Legislature.

RESOLUTION RE. NATIONAL WAR FRONT—concl'd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan on the 17th November, 1944, and not concluded on the 9th February, 1945:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to abolish the National War Front Branch of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and to liquidate forthwith the National War Front Organisation."

Mr. Sami Vencatachellam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I would conclude my remarks by merely making a suggestion to the Government that the fogeys and the flunkies in this Department might be replaced by persons more patriotic. But I quite realise that the present Government situated as it is would be unable to secure such patriotic men, but I think it must make a very honest attempt if the National War Front should be successful to further the cause of the war against the enemies and further the cause of the country.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, this Resolution was adjourned to enable the Government to come to a decision and it was stated by the Honourable the Leader of the House that by the time the discussion was resumed, Government would be in a position to state their decisions on the question. I should like the Honourable Member who is in charge of this subject to get up and enlighten the House.

Mr. G. S. Bozman (Secretary, Department of Information and Broadcasting): There are some other Honourable Members who would like to speak.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: This is the third day on which this Resolution is coming up for discussion. I submit further discussion would be more relevant to the point if the Government were to state their position at this stage. We do not yet know what the Government position is. This is why it was adjourned last time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know whether this discussion was adjourned last time to enable the Government to come to a decision.

Mr. G. S. Borman: I understand that the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting said that he would be in a position to make a statement at a later date, early in March, but I do not think that he thereby wished to shut out other Members who wished to speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The discussion will now proceed on the Resolution.

Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal (Nominated Non-Official): **Mr. President.** With your permission, Sir, I propose to give a very brief account of the activities of the National War Front in Bombay Province. The National War Front was inaugurated in Bombay on the 16th May, 1942, and was organised as a non-official and non-political body. Bombay city was divided into a number of divisions, each of which was placed in charge of a Director, and in the Mofussil District and Taluka Leaders and their helpers were appointed. The main objects of the National War Front were to stiffen the will of the people to resist aggression, to counteract enemy propaganda and every other defeatist influence, and to rally in an intensified and organised manner the people of the province into a body united in their determination to win the war. The National War Front did a good deal of work to keep people calm and at their work during the days of panic.

After the tide turned, it applied its energies to constructive work and carried on several campaigns and activities such as Recruitment Propaganda, the Grow-More-Food Campaign, the Savings Drive, the Controls Campaign, the Village Defence Parties, War Services and Agricultural Exhibitions, School Propaganda, Propaganda by and amongst women, Course of Studies in International Relationship for high schools and college teachers, and observance of special occasions such as Tunisia Day, the United Nations Day, Russia Day, Armistice Day and the Anniversaries of the war.

Now, Sir, with your permission I shall just say one word as regards the most important activities. The National War Front carried on vigorous propaganda for recruitment both to the Technical and Defence services. The Propaganda Vans constantly toured in the Districts. People have joined the army because they believe in the cause and because they have been persuaded by an organisation like the National War Front to do so. I strongly deprecate the statements to the effect that recruits have come forward from mercenary motives.

The Grow-More-Food Campaign has been one of the outstanding activities of the National War Front since its inception. This campaign has covered various aspects such as growing vegetables in gardens, the utilisation of vacant plots, the distribution of seeds, and the holding of conferences to discuss the food situation. The workers of the Front have brought the grievances of the people as regards food supply and distribution to the notice of the Authorities. At the time of the Floods in 1944 the workers of the Front did their utmost to relieve the distress and sufferings of the people.

The Savings Drive also has been an important activity. Talks were given through the loud-speaker system of the Bombay War Publicity Committee, and were also broadcast from the Bombay station of the All-India Radio; and advertisements were inserted in the local newspapers which have a wide circulation among the classes for whom the appeal to spend less was specially intended. In Bombay Province the Savings Drive has been conducted by persuasion and not by the exercise of force and pressure and improper methods. Personally I think that every endeavour should be made to promote small savings which affect the middle and the poorer classes of the population. The Savings Drive was specially intensified during the recent National Savings Fortnight. During that Fortnight the Bombay Province subscribed about a crore of rupees to the National Savings Certificates.

In the city as well as in the Districts the workers of the Front explain the various Control orders, and advise the people to ascertain the controlled prices of articles before purchasing them, and to bring to the notice of the Authorities any infringement of the Control orders and thus help to smash the Black Market.

The Village Defence Parties help to extinguish fires, to assist the police in tracing thieves, to assist the Authorities in the equitable distribution of food-stuffs, to assist the villagers in securing medical aid and in the work of village sanitation, and to educate the poor, destitute illiterate rural masses.

One of the special features of the National War Front in Bombay Province is the inauguration by the Provincial Leader of the Course of Studies in International Relationship for high schools and college teachers. The object of this course is to give to the teachers and through them to the student world and the public generally a balanced background for a clear understanding of the issues underlying the present war, and the manner in which they affect the nations of the world in general and India in particular. Lectures on International topics such as Germany and Nazism, Italy and Fascism, the four freedoms, India's place in the new world order, etc., and are delivered by Authorities on International subjects.

I think it is right that I should refer to the very valuable services which the Provincial Leader, Sir Rustom Masani, has rendered to the National War Front. He has been a bulwark of strength to the National War Front Organisation. He is a man of great independence, a gentleman of the highest probity, and possesses great organising powers; and his value to the National War Front has been tremendous.

Sir, I think it is a great pity that in other Provinces Officials were appointed Leaders of the National War Front. In some Provinces with a view to gaining the favours of the Officials the workers of the Front resorted to nefarious methods. That has certainly laid the National War Front open to criticisms of all kinds.

Sir, as regards the expenditure on printing, posters, and advertisements, I would point out that what was necessary in the early days is not now wanted. I think a good deal of expenditure on that account can now be reduced.

The expenditure on account of the National War Front in Bombay Province was Rs. 2,68,000 during 1942-43, Rs. 2,36,000 during 1943-44, and Rs. 2,28,000, up to the 31st December, 1944, during 1944-45—that is, Rs. 7,27,000 in all. Sir, I submit that the results of the working of the National War Front in the Bombay Province are commensurate with the expenditure, and I am of the opinion that the war effort should still be sustained. So I strongly support the continuance of the National War Front.

In conclusion, I can truthfully assure this Honourable House that everything that can be done has been done in the Bombay Province to so build the National War Front that we can honestly spell it with capital letters—in other words, everything has been done to secure a united determination transcending all racial, religious, and political differences to strengthen the war resistance of the people.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, this National War Front consists of two ideas: National and War Front. I can speak from my personal experience that it is neither national nor has it anything to do with war, or its front. Nothing is being done to maintain the morale of the people. During the last Ministry of Orissa, for the formation of which I was mainly responsible, at the request of the then Premier I accepted the duty of working for the organisation, as its chief. I do not want to go into details. I found that it was meant to be a non-official organisation, which it ostensibly was, but only 'safe' non-officials were wanted, and real non-officials were discarded. If real non-officials offered to serve on this organisation, they were not accepted. It came to such a pitch that within a few months of its inception, I, being a non-official myself, had to sever all connection with it by tendering

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

my resignation publicly. In the resignation I stated that so long as this mentality prevails in this organisation, people like myself cannot serve on it. To describe this organisation in one word—and here I only speak with regard to its working in the Province of Orissa; I cannot say about other provinces—it may be called 'a nuisance'.

We have heard of the Savings Drive, the Grow More Food Campaign, and many other such campaigns in which this organisation is engaged during these days, and as everybody knows—people may not speak out, but they know it—our organisation of food, civil supplies, grow more food organisation are replete with corruption and bribery. When officials indulge in it, you have got some remedy, you can bring their case to the notice of higher authorities, and personally I do not think that higher authorities everywhere are either themselves indulging in these things or permitting them. At least there is some way open to bring them to book, but in the case of non-officials—all street boys and young men—what can you do? They create panic among the people, they threaten the people by saying, 'Do this and do that, otherwise you will be punished under the Defence of India Rules'. They create panic and prepare the ground for all sorts of corruption—at least that is what is happening in my province. The propaganda van is moving and I know that some people if they were otherwise war-minded, they are now non-war-minded only on account of this war front propaganda,

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): What about other catches—drinking and dancing?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: My people fortunately are not addicted to drinks, but all the same, perhaps the idea proceeds from the Centre, dancing parties are organised. Sometimes when I go out I find arrangements being made for holding dance parties. I ask on occasion and I am told that the National War Front has organised dancing parties and the singers are to sing for the "Fifteen days saving drive" or some such thing. Things like that happen of course, but I do not know whether any drinks are also served. Perhaps I cannot speak with authority, because I am not in close touch with this organisation.

Sir, I do not propose to take much time of the House. I am definitely of the opinion that if this organisation must continue to help the Government in their Grow More Food campaign, or procurements, or in connection with their Savings Drive, let it be official. Don't you have this non-official organisation to protect your officers indirectly against charges of corruption? I appeal to the Government that if they want this National War Front and if they want to make people war-minded, they should not adopt such means which only result in making the people panicky and the officers corrupt.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, as I listened to the long discussion on the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, I felt that two facts emerge from this discussion. The first is, in my opinion—and I hope I am not doing my Honourable friend a wrong—that the Honourable Mover moved this Resolution because he was offended, or he disapproved of the activities of the National War Front in a certain province, and that he felt that, in one particular province at least, the activities or the resources of this organisation had been used to further causes which should not have had the support of this organisation. Secondly, Sir, I felt that after the Honourable Member in charge of the organisation had given him assurances or made certain remarks, the Honourable the Mover of this Resolution was practically convinced and that he was very halfhearted about continuing this discussion. I feel that at that time it was not he who wanted prolonged discussion and urged the immediate ending of the National War Front, but that he was more or less coerced into it by his neighbours or by the people who sat round about him. Therefore he was forced to allow the discussion to be carried on and did not withdraw his Resolution. But that is certainly, Sir,

my feeling as I listened to the debate. At all events, whether this discussion has done any good, it has done one thing. It is that this Resolution has provided an opportunity to a very large number of Honourable Members to criticise the National War Front and some have criticised it vehemently. A few from this side, who are not very vocal ordinarily, have supported it.

Now, Sir, I assure you that I have never held office in the National War Front nor has anyone held office in it in whom I am particularly interested. I am not here to recount the work done by the National War Front, because others have done it and probably they were better fitted to do so. I am not here to criticise because the amount of criticism levelled on this organisation has already been tremendous. There has been a flood of criticism and I feel that I have tried to listen in a dispassionate manner. I have tried to weigh the arguments on both sides and I have come to this conclusion that enough has been said to show us that the organisation needs reform. The criticism which has been levelled on it has been, I am sorry to say, in some cases in language extremely violent or at any rate vastly exaggerated. At any rate the speakers have made out a case for a certain amount of reform in this organisation and that is always good. Criticism of an organisation is good and this criticism has been probably taken note of by those who are responsible for the National War Front. But, Sir, the Honourable Members who have spoken in favour of the Resolution have not asked for reform. They have not asked for the betterment of the organisation. They want to scrap it lock, stock and barrel. As a practical man and unbiassed in this matter I feel that the case for reform and improvement is a very strong one while the case for its immediate ending and its suspension lock, stock and barrel on the other side is very weak and my reasons are two.

Firstly, so long as there is a war on and so long as we believe that this war is a righteous one, and that it must be fought out and won, it is absolutely impossible to carry on a war of this kind efficiently unless there is a strong organisation at the home front. I consider Sir, that there is no nation engaged in this war which has not such an organisation and I also am convinced that the war, if it is to be won speedily and completely, must have a strong and efficient home organisation and that the National War Front, whatever its faults and deficiencies may be, is the only substitute in this country for the home front. It does propaganda. It does a number of things to keep up the morale in this country. My friend, the Honourable Sir Cowasjee Jehangir had his finger on the pulse when he said that he gave cent per cent support to the war front because he gave the war cent per cent support. I am in the same position. I am not ashamed of giving wholehearted support to the war effort. As long as we are of this mind—and I do not know if anybody in this House is not of this mind—so far as they have expressed their opinions, this organisation ought to continue.

Secondly, not only is it necessary while the war lasts, but it is also necessary as an efficient organisation for useful and constructive propaganda even after the war. In a country like India, the value of correct propaganda the value of an organisation of this kind cannot be overestimated. In a country where so large a population is illiterate, in a country where so many millions live in villages and where they do not have any opportunity of education, or of acquiring public knowledge this is just the kind of organisation which can be used with great efficiency, even after the war. I will take just one instance.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): As a preparation for the next war!

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I hope there will not be one—at least not in your and my life time!

I will proceed by saying let us take the hopes we have of universal education in this country. Even a thing like that needs a tremendous amount of propaganda and education of the public and this is an organisation which can freely be used for that purpose. It has been said that it is the last refuge of certain

[Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee.]

people who according to a man like Dr. Johnson are described as taking refuge in patriotism. I do not think there is anything to be ashamed of, if it is said that this organisation has done nothing better than give employment to a large number of people who, according to an Honourable Member, were only half-clad I feel, Sir, that it provides a preparation for such people so that they may be used later on in constructive work.

I do not wish to go on very long but I would make this one appeal, that while I say that a great deal of reform is necessary, which I admit that there has been probably a good deal of misdirection of funds or energy, the organisation is capable of improvement, and I am surprised that out of all the people who have tried in some cases to court contempt on it, and of others who have tried to make it into a laughing-stock, not one constructive suggestion has been forthcoming as to how to improve it.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty: That is left for you.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I will try to make some as I go along.

At all events we must realise that this is an imperfect world. This country is not an Utopia. There is no organisation which can be completely perfect. Do my Honourable friends claim that when at one time another organisation made great efforts to build up a swaraj fund or to raise a Khilafat fund there was no misdirection of funds and no evils? Yet did we condemn those organisations merely because there were a certain number of black sheep in it or misuse of money? I say the position is exactly the same in this case. Let us try to be constructive. There is no city in the world where this truth is borne out by the study of history as in the case of Delhi. In the cities of Delhi, the Persian proverb which says—

"Har keh amad, imarat-i-nau Sakht."

"Whoever came, built a new edifice."

—has been fully illustrated and it has also been illustrated in all the ruins that lie around that the value of a constructive programme is much greater than that of a destructive programme. If all the powers that followed one after another had not tried to destroy the other, and not tried to dig up the foundations of buildings which others built, Delhi would have been a greater and grander city. I feel therefore that it is of no value to try to scrap a useful organisation, an organisation which has great potentialities for good, but that we should try and continue and reform it and use it for useful purposes during the war and after the war for which it is admirably fitted.

Mr. Abdul Qayum: Sir, this debate has gone on for a day and a half which is quite an unusual thing for a Resolution. The debate was carried on to the 2nd of March to enable the Government to make up their minds as to what they are going to do about this so-called National War Front. We hoped that when the debate opened this morning the Honourable Mr. Bozman would come out with a statement. Surely the Government of India know the mind of the people on this question. Surely they know that the vast majority of the people in this country have nothing but contempt for this National War Front, which has been set up by an irresponsible Government. We thought that the Government would come out with some sort of statement, but as usual they have remained as unresponsive as they have always been to popular wishes and popular feelings.

Now what is this National War Front? The Government of India seems to be very much in love with the word "National". Ever since the war began the word "National" is being used by the Government of India times out of number, for instance with regard to the National War Front and then with regard to the National Defence Council. Now what is the National Defence Council? For the North-West Frontier Province, to which I have the honour to belong, a paid Government servant is representing that Province on the National Defence Council.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Ralim): The Honourable Member would do well to leave alone the National Defence Council.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: It is not doing any useful work in my opinion and it is only a waste of money. But as far as the National War Front is concerned, after all if the Government of India are so much in love with the word "National", they should have consulted this nation when the war began. They should have come to the elected representatives of the people and asked them before declaring war against Germany and Japan whether India wanted to be in this war or not. Then you would have seen some response from the people of this country. But you did not trust the people of this country. The way you have been governing this country, the way you have been stifling our industries, the way you have been robbing us for years and years on end and the latest Budget is another robbery, one of the many robberies which have preceded it

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member should confine himself to the subject of the Resolution.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The Government of India did not consult Indian opinion when the war began. They would have all sorts of national organisations but the one thing which they hate and dread is a National Government representing the wishes and feelings of the people of this country. These organisations are meant only to throw dust into the eyes of other countries like Russia and the United States of America, countries whose people have a sympathy with the cause of Indian freedom. A very large amount of money is being lavished, and is being squandered, by agencies of the Government of India and the British Government to misrepresent this country in other countries.

I will now come to the objects for which this National War Front Organisation was set up. It was set up on a very bad day indeed, on the 11th of March, 1942. This organisation started its career with the blessings of His Excellency the Viceroy and I cannot do better than quote a few sentence from his speech in order to show whether in the two and a half or three years during which this organisation has been in existence, it has at all been able to achieve the objects for which it was brought into existence. This is what the Viceroy said :

"The object is to do every thing possible to help and maintain public morale, that is to say to strengthen the war resistance of the people to eradicate all attempts to undermine it and, in particular, to counteract fifth column activities of all kinds, including specially all talk, (and the next word is very important) thought, writings or rumours likely to produce a defeatist mentality, to inculcate faith, courage and endurance and to consolidate the national will to offer united resistance to Nazism and Fascism in every shape or form."

Now these are the high-sounding words with which this organisation was brought into existence. In the first year of its existence, in the year 1942-43 33 lakhs and 26,000 rupees were spent on this organisation. In the year 1943-44 something like 45 lakhs was spent on this organisation and the expense has gone on mounting and mounting and even in the present Budget provision has been made for this organisation. Have the Government inspired a hope in the Opposition that they were going to improve or modify or extinguish it? Nothing of the kind has been done.

Let us see how this organisation functions in the Provinces. The Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting, answering a question on the 10th November, 1943, in this House (I think it was a question by my Honourable colleague Mr. Azhar Ali) stated that the Provincial organisations are more or less independent of the Central organisation and that it was not the intention of the Government of India that this organisation should be used for party politics. Let us see how this intention has worked out in practice. I can say this much from my experience of this so called National War Front in my Province. This National War Front organisation was not being so much used against the Axis powers, namely, Germany, Italy and Japan, as against the popular parties in the Province: this machine was directed against the political parties. The people recruited to this organisation are absolutely useless people and I can say that without fear of contradiction. They are paid agents of the Government of India and fifth columnists of the nation, a majority of them, and they have been recruited to run this organisation against the popular parties, the Indian,

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

National Congress, the Muslim League and other organisations. It has not been so much used in order to further the war against Japan, Germany and Italy. This is the use to which it has been put; and the complaints from the Province of Punjab have been very loud and frequent that the National War Front organisation has been used in that province for collecting funds and for purely party purposes. But the Government are silent, because in the Punjab they have a Government which is to their liking, a Government which will obey any command given to them. Therefore the National War Front in the Province has been allowed

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab: Landholders) On a point of order, Sir, is the Honourable Member justified in criticising a Government which is functioning with the support of the people and is responsible to the Legislature?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: If that is really a point of order, it would stifle all criticism of the Punjab Government and that Government will be in office for ever and ever.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot criticise any Government of a Province.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, I was dealing with the National War Front. I was saying that the complaints were loud and frequent from the Punjab against the abuse of that organisation. If my friend Mr. Ghiasuddin who raised this pointless point of order had taken the trouble of reading the newspapers

Mr. Ghiasuddin: My point of order has been upheld by the Chair.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I will say something about the manner in which the work of this organisation is being conducted. The various methods adopted by this organisation are the following—advertising, publishing something which they are pleased to call literature, meetings, war services exhibition and propaganda vans. I know, that as far as these meetings are concerned, it is a well known fact that very few people take the trouble of attending the meetings which are organised by the National War Front organisation and even those who take the trouble of attending these meetings receive some kind of remuneration for attending them. It is really an irony of fate that while millions of people were starving in Bengal, because adequate transport could not be found for carrying food to areas where men, women and children were starving for want of food, the Government of India should squander the taxpayers' money by handing over as many as 50 motor vans fitted with cinema projectors to enable this organisation to carry on warfare against popular parties in the country. I consider the handing over of 50 motor vans to this organisation as a scandalous waste of public money. Those vans could have been much more effectively employed in Bengal to carry food to the areas where millions of our people were starving for want of food, which was the direct result of the wrong policy of the Government of India when their transport system collapsed and failed to cope with the situation. This was the scandalous way in which public money was squandered.

Now, Sir, one of the speakers who spoke last, I think it was Dr. Chatterjee, said that we must make some constructive suggestions to improve this organisation. Now, we, on this side of the House, believe that you can improve a thing in which there is some good, but if the entire organisation is rotten and does not deserve to exist for a single day, we would be wasting our time and energy and also the tax-payers' money by suggesting improvements for keeping alive an organisation of that kind. The Honourable Member quoted a Persian couplet referring to the ruins of Delhi. He said:

"Har keh amad imrat-i-nau Sakht."

I assure him that we on this side would like to add one more ruin to the numerous ruins which exist in Imperial Delhi, and this will be the ruin of the National War Front Organisation. We are not going to allow this criminal

waste of people's money for bolstering up an organisation which is heartily disliked by the people.

Now I want to say something about the majority of the people who are in this organisation. The Britishers in India may flatter themselves thinking, here is a set of Indians who will be loyal to us at any cost, but I have some experience of them, and I assure the Britishers that the majority of them will flatter and fall at the feet of any Government which is established in this country, whether it is British or otherwise. When the Congress Government was functioning in my province, some of these people vied with one another in flattering and dancing attendance on the Ministers for getting personal favours. These gentlemen have developed the art of making money into a fine art. They will deal with any Government which is in power in this country. It is not a fact that they have any liking for the British people or that they believe that the war which is being waged by Great Britain is a war for democracy. Their only interest is to make money, and if there is any other Government which can forcibly take people's money and keep these parasites employed and well provided for, they will be even more anxious to support that Government. Therefore, do not think that there is a body of people in this country who have some regard for the so-called high-sounding principles for which you say you are fighting for.

I am going to conclude my speech. I demand from the Government of India that this useless and rotten organisation, which means a scandalous waste of tax-payer's money should not be allowed to survive one day longer. This is the demand from this side, and I hope that the Government of India will bow its head before this demand. Sir, I support the motion.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the Mover of this Resolution has demanded the abolition of the National War Front Organisation. According to him, firstly, the danger of war is receding from the borders of India; secondly, the organisation is not serving the purpose for which it was established; thirdly, the organisation is being misused; and, fourthly, money is wasted. Does the Honourable Member realise that the war in the Far East is yet to begin?

An Honourable Member: It has begun.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh: As soon as the European War is over, all the forces of the United Nations will be used to fight Japan. In that case India is bound to be used as a base, and the National War Front Organisation is essential to help the United Forces which will be operating from this country.

Now, I want to tell this Honourable House what the National War Front Organisation is doing in the Punjab. During the last four months the National War Front has been responsible for arranging 2280 meetings, and has given its active support to recruiting, to publicity for civil supplies, and to the Red Cross, to the Small Savings Scheme, to the W. V. S., and W. A. C. (I.), and to the Central Government's publicity for Travel less, Grow More Food, Security, Propaganda against Japan, and similar campaigns.

It would be a most serious blow to war publicity and a complete breach of faith with our non-official workers at this stage and before the war is over to abandon the National War Front. If the work is unsatisfactory in other provinces than it is for the Central Government and for the Provincial Governments concerned to improve their organisations. Where the organisation has been a success and originally started at the express request of the Central Government, the only reason for stopping the work can be the end of the war with Japan.

It has been said that the National War Front workers are getting money out of the National War Front. This is absolutely wrong. Our Provincial Leader Lt. Col. Sir Khizr Hyat Khan has not drawn even a single anna from the National War Front funds. I myself am District Leader, Rohtak District,

[Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh.]

and I know there are 38 District Leaders and 8 District Secretaries not drawing a single pie from the National War Front by way of honorarium or remuneration. I may tell the House it is very easy to say that they are drawing monies and have become rich, and this and that, but it is all absolutely wrong. In the Punjab this organisation is doing very useful work, very very useful work and I know that my neighbouring Province, Delhi, is doing very well. I have heard speeches from my Honourable friends, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, that their provinces are doing well too. Then as I have said, if any province is not doing well, it should be corrected or improved. I say if this organisation is abolished at this stage, there will be a great loss. With these words I oppose the Resolution.

Mr. G. S. Boxman: Sir, I must open my remarks with an expression of regret that the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed is not able to be here to reply to this Resolution himself. That regret will, I believe, be shared by the House, not only of course, from their point of view, because of Sir Sultan Ahmed's indisposition, but because unfortunately I now have to inflict myself upon them. I should also say a word in explanation in regard to the remarks made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. I fear that there must have been some misunderstanding and had I been in a position to put that position in which he finds himself right, I should have been very glad to do so.

Now, from the various speeches that have been made on this Resolution, I think there is a certain amount of misunderstanding and misinformation about the functions and objectives of the National War Front. Statements have been made by Members of this House coming from individual provinces as to how the front is working in their provinces. We have to speak of the War Front as viewed from the Centre, and I hope that the facts that I place before the House now will help Members to arrive at a correct and unbiased conclusion. It is not surprising perhaps that there is some misinformation about this organisation. It is not the business of a publicity organisation to publicise itself. The National War Front was started early in 1942 shortly after Japan entered the war and won a series of startling victories. The situation which then arose called for a quick remedy. The Japanese were almost at the gates of India; their ships appeared in Indian waters, and we seemed to lie at the mercy of their air arm. Certain cities in Eastern India were evacuated by nervous citizens; food stuffs and other civil supplies went underground, and even currency coins began to be hoarded very much to the detriment of the country's economy. It was therefore imperative to restore confidence as speedily as possible, not only for the sake of the country's war effort but also for the day to day life and welfare of the people. In these circumstances Government felt that steps should be taken immediately to mobilise public opinion and forestall a lowering of morale. They also felt that this purpose would best be achieved by an organisation which would appeal to the popular imagination, which would do everything possible to maintain public morale, counteract defeatism and rumours and to inculcate—as His Excellency the Viceroy said—faith, courage and endurance, and to stimulate generally the will to resist all aggressors. What was required was the organisation of a body of men of good will who would subscribe to its objects and pledge themselves to do their utmost to give effect to them. Non-official men and women of public spirit and influence, as well as trade unions and other groups who were willing to identify themselves with these objectives were welcome and could join. Thus the National War Front came into existence. Each Provincial Government was asked to organise a Provincial National War Front on a purely provincial basis, and the Central Government confined itself to maintaining a Central office whose function was to advise and co-ordinate provincial fronts and to supply them with information and material as necessary to enable them to carry out their activities; and I would like to emphasise that although provincial activities were substantially subsidised from the Centre, in the provincial sphere each Provincial National War Front has enjoyed complete autonomy. That is how the national war front originated. Its chief function has been to build up correct understanding of the war and to arouse and maintain the right type of

war-mindedness and morale. Understanding must be created by an appeal to facts and reason, showing that rumour is demonstrably false, and morale cannot be maintained by mere propaganda unless it is backed by a realisation of the issues at stake; and such understanding had to be created among lakhs and crores of human beings; not only among the citizens of towns, who have also the benefit of other aids to understanding such as newspapers, radio and the cinema; but also among the inhabitants of the rural areas whose facilities for keeping in touch with the course of events not only in the world but in their own country are somewhat limited; and this was exactly how these many public spirited non-official men and women ran it, and carried out with great success, under most difficult conditions, the work of dispelling rumour and panic. They rendered a most valuable service at a time of the greatest emergency and stress—not to say the greatest crisis—that India has ever faced. I would like to pay a sincere tribute to these patriotic and energetic non-officials who undertook the initial direction of this organisation and to the thousands of other patriotic workers drawn from all walks of life and from every community who carried it on. India, I believe, should be grateful to them for the part they played in restoring normal conditions, often at very considerable cost to themselves.

Now that period to which I have referred seems already remote. The war is now contained within steadily narrowing margins, thanks to the matchless war efforts of the United Nations in which India has played so gallant a part. This has taken time. After we had withstood the first shock of the war, there was a time when nothing startling seemed to happen—a time of marshalling our strength, a time of mobilising all our resources. The national war front, as the only field publicity organisation in the country, had an important part to play during this period also, in attempting to maintain the country's morale when victory seemed far and uncertain, and inculcating faith, courage and endurance in the tasks which lay ahead. It has been alleged that the national war front has dabbled in politics. Well, there may have been a few—but I would emphasise the word 'few'—cases where individuals confused the objectives and the mission for which they were working. In such a widespread organisation of such recent and rapid growth I conceive it to be impossible to secure a 100 per cent. understanding of the objectives and a 100 per cent. discipline. But I can most definitely affirm and assure the House that the national war front's policy has always been and is to keep out of party politics, and I do not think the stray case of a few individuals in this enormous organisation should be sufficient to condemn the whole. . .

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Has any action been taken against these individuals?

Mr. G. S. Borman: Some rather strange remarks have been made in the course of the debate as to the work carried out by the national war front. It has been alleged for one thing that most of the literature produced by the national war front is in English. This I regard as a very curious charge. The chief medium of the whole organisation is the spoken word and I cannot imagine an organisation functioning at all throughout India, unless the spoken word was in the language of the area. It is true of course that the material issued from the Centre has been in English; but that material is meant either for the guidance of the speakers or is sent to the provincial units to be translated into their local languages, and this in fact is exactly what the provincial organisations have done. It has also been stated that no recruits have come in because

1 P. M. of the National War Front. Well, Sir, the National War Front is not a recruiting organisation and recruiting as such is not its business. But if it is implied that the efforts of the National War Front to inculcate faith and courage and the will to meet aggression have not helped recruitment, directly and indirectly, then I think I must correct that impression. Many young men, after attending the National War Front rally, have voluntarily stepped forward and joined the ranks of India's fighting men and this has been a feature of the meetings particularly in the Punjab, where the working of the Front has been an outstanding success.

[Mr. G. S. Bozman]

Some of my Honourable friends have also given an impression that money has been spent recklessly. Well, Sir, if you consider the widespread nature of this work, I think I can say without hesitation that its cost is cheap by any standard. The Centre spends about one pice per head per annum. Compared with the money spent on publicity by the Governments in the United Kingdom or the United States of America, the expenditure in India is microscopic. I would just give one instance, if I may, and this will also refute the charge that the National War Front is subsidising newspapers by placing advertisements with them. Advertising is, of course, an important medium of publicity used for its obvious merit by all Governments. British newspapers have no need to be subsidised and I think they would scorn such a proposal with contempt. I have no reason to believe that Indian newspapers would adopt any different attitude; but the British Government have spent on advertising alone, which is only a small part of Government's publicity work, on an average 14 annas per head per war year. The Government of India's annual expenditure on all its publicity, including the National War Front, All-India Radio, advertising, films and so on is about 3½ pice per head per war year.

An Honourable Member: What is the income per head?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: There are also one or two smaller matters to which I might refer. My Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan said in his speech in November that the National War Front was a useful organisation when it started but he expressed the belief that, now that the country is united, there is no need for such an organisation. Well, Sir, I wish I could subscribe to that view but I cannot. There is very much stern work ahead before the war is won and I think we should be doing wrong if we relaxed our efforts to help the war one jot. I should also say that I noted that Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan said that recruiting had stopped. That seemed to me a curious statement. Recruiting has not stopped and I think that we are proud that there are still many places in all branches of the armed forces for which resolute and patriotic young men and women are competing.

Then Mr. Abdul Qaiyum in a distribe, which to my mind seemed remarkable for its self-denigration, referred to motor vans being bought and used by the National War Front when there was no transport to provide food where it was wanted. I think he overlooked the fact that the vans bought by the National War Front were bought long before the famine either began or indeed made its first appearance.

Now, Sir, the speeches made by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Mr. Ghiasuddin, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and Sir Ratanji Dalal and others are, I think, a fair answer to the critics of the National War Front and I can assure these gentlemen that any publicity organisation of the Government of India will continue consistently to support all efforts and all individuals who stand for the destruction of Germany and Japan. But, Sir, with the change in the war situation from about the middle of last year and the steadily mounting offensive of the United Nations, there has been a shift of emphasis in India from the danger of invasion to the discomforts and restrictions of war life. The man who was at one time alarmed at the prospect of an air raid is now equally alarmed about his stocks of rice or his ability to clothe himself and his family; and directly arising out of the war have come these problems of scarcity of food, shortage of consumer goods, problems of inflation, problems of black market and the hoarders. For the solution of these problems, we believe that the same war morale needs to be maintained. The Government have had to initiate many measures such as the Grow More Food campaign, rationing, controls of all kinds, controls of transport, control of speculation, promotion of savings and so on. The success of these measures which are for the good of the people at large depends on the co-operation of everybody in the country. Here again arises that important need for building up understanding of how the problems have arisen and how the countermeasures can solve them, and above all understanding not only of the duties but of the rights of the people at large.

Now, Sir, to get that understanding, we must exhort the people to grow more food. We must exhort them to save and invest. We must tell them what the controls are—controls of prices, controls of stocks. We must tell them what their approach should be when they suspect the black market or the hoarder. These publicity campaigns are, I venture to believe, of so non-controversial and so beneficial a character that public support should not and will not be withheld from them and I believe that the House will support them.

And from that I now come to the question of the future. As I have just said, there has come a shift of emphasis in India from the danger of invasion to the discomforts of war. What we want now is a publicity organisation to give information and instruction which would help to secure the co-operation of every one in working the controls, the rationing system, smashing the black market, in fighting inflation by savings, in short in dealing with all the problems which have arisen out of the war. With this change in requirements we believe it is necessary either to reorganise the National War Front or to replace it by a more suitable organisation. For nearly a year now, we have been considering this question and the Government of India have now decided in favour of the latter and I am in a position to announce the general outline of the new scheme. We propose to replace the National War Front by an official publicity organisation, essentially mobile in character and designed to reach the most inaccessible elements of the population. In each province, we suggest an organisation in three layers—the District Unit, the Regional Unit and the Provincial Unit. The District Unit will consist of a whole time paid organiser, a motor lorry equipped with a talkie film projector, a loud speaker, a gramophone, lantern slides and a singer.

An Honourable Member: Male or female?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Why not a dancer?

Mr. G. S. Bosman: They will come under the head non-official co-operators. Now, Sir the district units would be able to hold about 15 meetings a month. They will collect their audience from the adjoining villages and on the average, we think that a unit would cover the whole district in about three to four months. They would show films, broadcast radio programmes and arrange lectures, they would co-operate with small cattle fairs, they would organise exhibitions and they would organise singing and dramatic parties, in which some of my Honourable friends over there seem to be so interested.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How would it help the war?

Mr. G. S. Bosman: They would also get the local notabilities to preside at meetings. Official organisations interested in anti-hoarding and profiteering measures, recruiting, small savings, controls, grow more food campaigns and so on, could use these media for their work. The intention is to make these performances sufficiently entertaining so as to provide some recreation to the villager and to attract large crowds and thus furnish excellent opportunities for publicity for war and the problems arising out of war. The district organiser in charge of the unit would work under the supervision of the district officer. The regional units would be almost entirely supervisory and their function would be to tour throughout and to make certain that the district units carry out and arrange programmes and function efficiently, and the regional units, if required would work under the divisional commissioners where divisions exist. The agency controlling district units would be provincial units and this, we propose should be a branch of the provincial publicity or other appropriate department under the Provincial Governments. These units would produce material in local languages, films of provincial interest and songs to suit local tastes, and also arrange for exhibitions in small towns. We suggested that these units should run refresher courses to train mobile units and should be assisted by a lady organiser for work and advice in connection with special work among women.

The existing organisation at the Centre would be replaced by a Field Publicity section of the Department of Information and Broadcasting. This would

[Mr. G. S. Bozman.]

represent the appropriate counterparts of the sections in the Provincial units, i.e., the Production section, the Song Publicity Section, the Women's section and the Exhibition section. This Central organisation would supply publicity guidance, notes on All-India problems and literature to the Provincial Units but the Provinces would be free to adapt the material to their own needs. The Central organisation would also arrange for refresher courses for training the staff down to the level of Regional organisers. The cost of the scheme would be shared between the Centre and the Provinces in the ratio, it is proposed, of two-thirds to one-third for recurring expenditure and fifty-fifty for non-recurring expenditure.

This new scheme differs from the existing National War Front in two important respects. The basic approach to the people will be informative and factual rather than emotional or exhortatory and the staff will be paid by and work under direct Government supervision and control. While the primary task of the organisation will continue to be publicity of an educative nature for war and problems arising directly out of the war, there is nothing to prevent it from being utilised for nation-building activities such as instruction in co-operative credit, agriculture, cattle, health, education and Central and Provincial Government's reconstruction and development schemes. We have told the Provincial Governments quite clearly that we do not in the least wish to interfere with the publicity work, much of it of an excellent standard, which they themselves have been financing. And, I should like to explain here that if, on account of our proposed reorganisation, it becomes necessary for them to rearrange or reorganise their own work in any degree, we shall do all we can to afford them every assistance, through the new organisation, in furthering all kinds of war publicity.

The new organisation will be wholly, as I have said, under the administrative control of Provincial Governments. But that would not mean that contacts with non-officials which have proved so valuable in the past would be abandoned. The new organisation must rely a great deal on non-official co-operation, advice and assistance. We have suggested to the Provinces that for every District Unit there might be an advisory committee consisting of non-officials and officials concerned with war publicity. In addition, Provincial units could constitute with the Minister or the Adviser in charge of the Department concerned and with non-officials a similar committee for the whole Province. Here again, I should emphasise that any publicity for the war effort carried out by the Provinces themselves with the assistance of non-officials can certainly count on the fullest co-operation and assistance of the new organisation.

This, Sir, in broad outline is the new scheme. It proposes in effect to create a new highly mobile and disciplined body of workers whose basic approach to the many problems we have to face till the war is over, will be informative and factual. And, if incidentally they provide a little entertainment, a ray of cheer in the monotonous life of the village, I think there is no one who would object very much to it.

Now, Sir, I do not wish to take up much more time. I have placed all the facts before the House and I hope these facts would help it to reach an impartial conclusion. I have not claimed that the National War Front has reached that perfection which President Roosevelt recently characterised as unattainable. I have only shown how at a time of great emergency it rendered most valuable service, and how in the light of experience gained, it is proposed now to replace it by a more efficient instrument of public information and instruction. The new scheme is generally acceptable to the Provinces, subject to modification on points of detail. We are not insisting on absolute uniformity, and we have met or will meet Provinces on these points. One Province may decide finally to stand out of the scheme; if so we shall have no objection. One or two Provinces may decide to continue at their own cost non-official organisations comparable with the National War Front, but these will be separate from the new organisation and none of the finance will be provided by

the Central Government. Our thanks are due to the non-officials all over India who have done sterling honorary work. We hope that many of them will continue to help under the new scheme, and we know that in many Provinces they will do so.

After this explanation, Sir, I request my Honourable friend to consider whether it is necessary to press his Resolution.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I share the regret of my Honourable friend Mr. Bozman about the absence of the Honourable the Leader of the House who promised this House on the last occasion that he would suggest or rather outline the new proposals that he had drawn up in regard to the National War Front. We miss his militant eloquence. At the same time, we have had a fairly good story from Mr. Bozman in a style which was completely non-provocative, but Mr. Bozman's speech does not wholly cover what lies behind the whole scheme. Sir, when my Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan brought forward this Resolution, I felt that it ought to have been more comprehensive and that it should have included a request for the liquidation of the publicity section of the Department of Information and Broadcasting. Sir, the mischief does not lie in any particular phase of the activity of this publicity section, but in this publicity section itself; and today we have been told just now that the cloak will be taken off the National War Front and it will be amalgamated with the publicity section of the Information and Broadcasting Department. Sir, I have no desire to go over ground that has been trodden by previous speakers. It is no doubt a fact that in this House on my left there have been many speakers, honourable men, who have spoken of the wonderful work done by the National War Front in their own provinces. Sir, it is the curse of this country that there are in this country people, eminent, honourable and certainly not self-seeking, who feel that if the British leave this country they will be absolutely helpless and that they would not know where to turn for support and inspiration. Sir, what we in this country probably want is an organisation which will teach the people of this country not to be afraid of freedom. I am afraid that if we ever are in a position to constitute that organisation, those gentlemen on my left who have spoken would be the persons who have to be educated against the fear of freedom.

Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Bozman has not chosen to deny the allegations against the National War Front. He said that cases of men who were engaged in this work and have gone off from the rails, were few. That itself is a good enough admission, so far as we are concerned. He has also told us about the history of this organisation, the very good intentions that surrounded it. Sir, we know that practically every new thing that is commenced in this country under the aegis of either the Secretary of State or the Government of India is surrounded by good intentions. It often happens, Sir, that when a proposal is made which indicates a concession to the demands of the people of this country there is a rider added to it which says that if the proposal was not acceptable to the people of the country generally it shall be then used to disintegrate them. Sir, I would refer to a letter written by the late Lord Birkenhead when he was Secretary of State, to the Viceroy of India at that time, which finds mention in his biography by his son where referring to the appointment of a Royal Commission to report on further constitutional reforms for India (which happened to be the Simon Commission) Lord Birkenhead has said: "Make this offer to the Swaraj Party; if they will not accept it put it on the bargain counter and use it to disintegrate them". Perhaps the genesis of this National War Front was also something on these lines. It was started undoubtedly at a time when perhaps the Government of India and their masters in England felt that something must be done to sustain public morale. Nobody in this House knows more of the then need to sustain public morale than I do, coming from Madras, having lived in Madras in April 1942, when the Government of Madras ran away lock, stock and barrel from Madras. It looked as if an organisation was needed to sustain the morale of Government rather than the morale of the people.

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

Be that as it may, we are now convinced, at any rate even by the partial admission of Mr. Bozman, that the utility of this organisation no longer exists; but we should here and now protest against any further use of that type of organisation in order to dissipate the morale of the people of this country and make them fight against any prospect of freedom that might be in store for them. Sir, it may be that there are gentlemen like my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir engaged in this task, in the work of the National War Front; but for one Sir Cowasjee Jehangir I assert there are twelve people who are merely hirelings who have no interest either in the work of the National War Front, who have little interest in the continuance of the British Government in this country except as their paymasters, and who merely use that opportunity to malign the good people who are leaders of public opinion in this country.

Sir, I now come to the prospects of this new publicity organisation. A very responsible member of the Secretariat of this Government said in my presence—I shall repeat this for the benefit of my Honourable friend Sir Jeremy Raisman—that he felt that Government must undertake publicity of its own just because of the wilful and deliberate misrepresentation of the activities of Government carried on by the Indian owned newspapers of this country. It is not hearsay; let not my Honourable friend the Supply Member stare at me; it is a thing which I heard.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): I am only endorsing that statement.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I thank my Honourable friend; I am always obliged for assistance that comes from quarters from which I least expect it.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Is not that a glimpse of the obvious?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no second sight, apparently my Honourable friend is blessed with it; I cannot glimpse the obvious, if any, in this case.

This is what it comes to. Government want to make use of this organisation for purposes of their own propaganda. And what is this propaganda that this Government want to do? If it is honest and fair propaganda, if it is propaganda that will benefit the people, naturally the people will not be averse to it and they will probably go even to the extent of putting themselves up to aid this Governmental machinery. But Government are seeking to entrench themselves behind their publicity organisation so that their own acts may be boosted to the people and any indication of cohesion amongst the people, any desire on the part of the people to win freedom for this country may be dissipated.

Sir, I heard in Madras some time back, or rather it was reported in the papers, that the chief executive of the National War Front in Madras—a gentleman who, if the normal laws of this country were in operation, would probably be found amongst the category of those people who have had no ostensible means of livelihood—that this National War Front, according to this gentleman, was going to become the National Peace Front organisation. Apparently that gentleman is more in the confidence of the Government of India than any Member of this House. And that is exactly the proposal that has been outlined to us. The various details given by the Honourable Member are very fascinating indeed. The fact that Government contemplate spending only 3½ pies per head of the population of this country which is just an infinitesimal thing, whereas the poor people would probably like to be given that 3½ pies in their hands rather than all the songs and dances that you can provide for entertaining and educating them. And that brings me again to where I started. The Resolution, I think, has been more or less accepted by the Government because they are ashamed of the continuance of the existence of the National War Front. But it does not matter very much if Government say, "We want this Resolution to be withdrawn". They have themselves accepted it because they do not want this National War Front organisation to continue in

that name. But it is the sequel to it that I object to. May I ask my Honourable friend who sponsored this new scheme whether the amount spent by the Government of India on this new publicity monster is going to be votable; or is it going also into the last column of the demands for grants in which case we have no chance of even expressing an opinion on this expenditure.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member may continue his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

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

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr. Deputy President. Resuming where I left. I would like this House to make the position very clear. It is not a question of the House expressing its disapproval of a particular organisation which is financed by the Government of India, and in the meantime the Honourable Member in charge just changes the name and says, "This organisation is to serve a different purpose altogether, the scope and nature of it will be changed, and therefore we would ask you to withdraw the Resolution". The House cannot be deceived by a change in the tactics of the Government in this manner. Granting, Sir, that there has been a change, I think it is time that the House expresses its categorical disapproval of any strengthening of the publicity organisation of the Government of India which could be for one main purpose, namely, to fight against the nationals of this country so that this present Government can remain entrenched where they are, their acts glorified and the people led to believe—which they would not believe in any instance—that this Government stands for them and for their ultimate good.

Sir, it has been suggested by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bozman, that this new organisation will act in encouraging the Grow More Food campaign, in helping rationing and things of that sort. May I not ask him whether the Provincial Governments are not competent to do their own propaganda in this manner, and whether those Governments that are responsible to the people would not be able to convince people that they are doing the right thing, and why should the Central finances at all be spent in this manner. Sir, I referred this morning to an attitude of the Government officers in the matter of the Press in this country. The whole scheme of the war which the United Nations are supposed to be fighting, as the House knows, is to curb the totalitarian spirit. The monster Propaganda has been the handmaiden of these totalitarian governments.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Here is a move to create another monster, a monster which will help to strengthen the position of the Government of India by means of propaganda and publicity. The House will not tolerate any copying of Goebbels's methods in order to strengthen this particular Government. I wish to make it clear, absolutely crystal clear, that the change in the front of the Government does not affect the issue. The National War Front remains, no matter by what name it is called, no matter whether non-officials shall not play such an important part in it as they did before and that it shall become a purely official organisation, so long as the Government of India are paying for this, so long as it is intended to boost the Government of India's actions, and I think that the House should make it very clear that the vote is not merely against the National War Front but against any organisation by whatever name or form in which it might re-appear on the scene. Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. Piaro Lal Kureel (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I stand to oppose the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan. I oppose it on principle. Since the beginning of the war, I have been wholeheartedly co-operating with the British War efforts; not myself alone but the whole community, the community which I represent, is wholeheartedly co-

[Mr. Piare Lal Kureel.]

operating in the British war efforts, not only with men, but also with money and provision. I think the present war is a people's war; it is a war against the Fascist domination of the world; it is a war against the Fascist regime; it is a war against the oppression of the Nazi tyrants; it is a war in which we are vitally concerned, and therefore, I, on principle, cannot support this motion.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about this Fascist Government?

Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: If we go back to the time when the National War Front was founded, we find that at that time the people in India were disorganised, there was chaos and confusion in the country and Congress members were not willing to co-operate with the British war effort. They were after creating all sorts of mischief; they were creating suspicion in the minds of the public; they were telling the people that they should not co-operate in this war.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They were fighting Fascism in their own country.

Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: At that time, Sir, an organisation like the National War Front was greatly needed to educate the people. In a country like India where most of the people are illiterate, where people are not educated, and can be easily misled and misguided, where people are led by sentiments and emotions, an organisation of this type was greatly needed in order to mobilize public opinion . . .

Mr. Sri Prakasa: You have been misled and misguided.

Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: At that time, Sir, the war had reached the gates of India and the gates were almost open. The Britishers were not ready to face the situation that had arisen as a result of the entry of Japan into the war. That being the position, you can very well realize the importance of an organisation like the National War Front. I think, Sir, that it was most important at that time to mobilize public opinion, and it was the duty of some organisation to take up the work of procuring recruits, to collect funds for the successful prosecution of the war, to remove suspicion from the minds of the people, and so on. This work was taken over by the National War Front organisation which has proved very useful. It is due to this organisation that now we find millions of soldiers in the Army who are fighting for the cause of democracy, for the cause of poor and down-trodden people, for the cause of the defence of this country. It is due to the National War Front that the Rationing and Grow More Food campaigns have been made a success, and have been organised on extensive basis. It is due to this organisation that we have been able to collect war loans.

Sir, I can quite understand that there are certain draw-backs and certain weaknesses in the organisation, but to condemn it altogether is not proper. Sir, I will not take much time of the House, but I will only say that it is not proper to abolish this National War Front organisation at this moment when it is the duty of every Indian to contribute something towards the victory of the present war.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Certainly not.

Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: With these few words, Sir, I oppose the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): The Resolution which is for consideration before this Honourable House asks for the liquidation of the organisation known as the National War Front. Some of the Honourable Members of this House who have spoken in opposition to the Resolution have made the mistake that this Resolution is intended as a move against mobilising the resources of the country for fighting this war. I am sorry that an experienced parliamentarian like my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, should have committed the same mistake. It is not that we on this side of the House are opposed to the war effort, but it is that we are opposed to the misuse of the public money,

to the prostitution of the National War Front organisation by interested people and to the objectionable conditions that exist in this particular organisation.

Sir, before I deal with this organisation, let me say a word about the speech of the Honourable Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. He described the attitude and the policy of the Muslim League with regard to this war as of malevolent neutrality.

(At this stage Mr. Jamnadas Mehta shook his head.)

My Honourable friend shakes his head. But I think . . .

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I said benevolent or malevolent.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Let me tell him that it has been neither benevolent nor malevolent. But it has been a policy which any decent party and self-respecting person would have followed. It was the Muslim League that drew the attention of the Government in this country as far back as June 1940 to mobilise the resources of India for the defence of the country. It was the Muslim League which asked this Government to take into equal partnership the people of this country to fight Nazi aggression. But this Government has always depended on those who are willing to dance to any tune that may be played on the flute of British imperialism.

Credit has been claimed for the National War Front organisation on account of the enrolment of two million soldiers from India. It has been made quite clear by the speech of the Honourable Secretary that the recruitment of the soldiers in the Indian army was not one of the functions of the National War Front organisation. So I am afraid those of the Honourable Members who have tried to claim this credit for themselves cannot have that credit. Apart from that, is it really such a wonderful achievement? A population of 400 millions of people to supply two million soldiers! Is it such a wonderful achievement that the people sitting on the opposite side should be proud of? If this Government had taken the peoples of India into their confidence and if it had asked the people of India to defend their country, then instead of two million there would have been twenty million Indian soldiers. My Honourable friend, the Education Secretary, has described the *per capita* expenditure which is incurred.

Mr. G. S. Borman: I have no connection with education.

(At this stage Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan informed the Honourable Member that Mr. Borman belonged to the publicity side.)

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I am afraid I was giving him a little more credit. Anyhow, the Secretary in charge of the (mis) Information Department.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Who broadcasts ignorance!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: But it is not safe to give percentages. You should not feel proud that in a country like India only .5 per cent. of the population has joined the Army. Sir, the Honourable Dr. Chatterjee who, I find, is not in his seat . . .

Mr. Sri Prakasa: He is in another Member's seat!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: . . . but all the same is present in the House, has said that he agreed that there were some defects in the organisation. He said that it was necessary to have the right type of propaganda done in the country, and he said that it was necessary that correct information should be given to the people. He said that it was necessary that the right type of Indians should be associated with this organisation. All this is very good, but as my Honourable friend's premises were wrong, therefore his conclusion is wrong. Neither does this propaganda give the right type of information, nor has it got the right type of people in it. Therefore its achievements cannot be of the right type.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. G. Chatterjee: Is it not capable of providing the right type?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend says it is not capable of doing the right things?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. G. Chatterjee: Why not?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Because it is mismanaged by Government which has to its credit millions of blunders and a magnitude of sins. That is why it is not capable.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: You can manage it better. ●

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend says that I can manage it better. I thank him for giving us on this side of the House the credit for doing things so much better. But as long as he chooses to follow those who do not know how things are managed in a better way, I am afraid his advice to us will not have any effect.

Sir, it has been stated by Members from their personal experience that the public money which has been spent during the last few years on this organisation has been so much waste. My Honourable friend from Assam, who was very closely associated with this organisation in that province, a province which was the subject of direct invasion by Japan, has told you what your organisation has achieved, and he has also told you how the public money has been wasted even in that province. It is claimed for this organisation, Mr. Deputy President, that it has raised and maintained the morale of the peoples of India. Let me tell you that it is a claim which is neither justified nor true. It is not this organisation that has kept up the morale of the people of India but it is the inherent qualities of the people of India that has kept up the morale of the people. It is claimed that this organisation has done a lot in relieving the suffering of the famine-stricken areas. One Honourable Member claimed that due to the activities of this organisation there is more food in this country today than there was before. I would have liked to hear what was the achievement of this organisation when millions of people were dying in Bengal, thousands dying in Orissa and thousands and lakhs starving down in the South. I happen to have visited Bengal for nearly four weeks and during that time I never came across anyone connected with the National War Front who was doing anything in connection with the famine there. I do not want to say anything very harsh against anybody but it is a fact that the money which has been spent over this organisation has been so much waste. All luck to those who have accepted the policy of being camp-followers of the British Government in India. They have joined and they will join any organisation of any type which may be set up by the British in this country.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend the Secretary for the Department of Information and Broadcasting has given us a very sketchy picture of what the Government propose to do in the future with regard to publicity. I am afraid that the picture was so sketchy and the ingredients of mischief are in such full strength in that picture that we find it very difficult to accept it. The mischief that was done through the National War Front organisation will be done through the organisation which the Government propose to set up. Whatever may be stated by any Honourable Member in this House, any organisation whose object is to keep in power the present Government of India is an organisation which is working against the interests of the people of India. And it is a well known fact that this organisation (the National War Front) in the past and the future organisation which is intended to be set up will continue to do that. As I said before we have not placed this proposition before this House with the intention or idea of impeding the war effort. We have placed this proposition before this House because we feel that this organisation is not only not doing any good as far as the war is concerned but it is doing a definite harm and will do greater harm to the real interest of the country at large.

Mr. Deputy President, my Honourable friend, Mr. Bozman, appealed to the Mover of the Resolution that he should withdraw it. I suppose he made that appeal because indirectly he has accepted the spirit of the Resolution. Am I right in understanding that the Government know and feel that this organisation is a useless organisation, that this organisation in the past has not achieved for itself what was hoped of it, and that this organisation has been responsible for so much waste of public money? I do not think my Honourable friend will accept all these charges and yet he is willing to liquidate this organisation.

Why do you want to liquidate this organisation, if it has been of such tremendous value in your war effort and in keeping up the morale of the people? You know that it has done nothing of the kind. It has only provided some jobs for certain people who are always hanging about the Government offices. There are of course honourable exceptions amongst that lot. It is within the knowledge of every one that there are a number of M. L. As. in the various Provinces who are given jobs in the National War Front organisation, so that their votes may be available to the Government of that particular province. I know it for a fact and I think the Honourable the Secretary for the Department of Information and Broadcasting knows it for a fact that this is exactly what is happening.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): How about the Central organisation?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, an organisation which is supposed to be run in the name of the people cannot succeed unless it has those people in it, who are respected by their countrymen and who have any influence with their countrymen. It is no use their camouflaging any Government organisation by associating certain non-official with it and declaring it as a non-official organisation of the 400 million people of India. It cannot serve any useful purpose and I am as positive as anything that in spite of the number of meetings that may have been held, in spite of the type of speeches that may have been made at these meetings, it is not due to the efforts of the National War Front that the people's morale has been kept up.

My Honourable friend, the Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, said that this new scheme which they have in view will provide entertainment for the villagers whose life otherwise is very dreary and dull. Then why not come out openly with that object? If that was the object of this organisation, that it should provide some entertainment for the villagers, I will give you double the amount of money that you want. But that is not the object of this organisation. If that were the object, I assure you that we on this side of the House will not grudge whatever amount may be spent by the Government for this particular purpose, because there is not the least doubt that the lives of these poor villagers are dull and dreary. I thought that a thing like providing entertainment for the villagers in seven lakhs of villages in India should be a part of post-war planning and therefore this particular work should be transferred to the Honourable Member for Postwar Development and it should not be under the Information and Broadcasting Department. The fact of the matter is that the Government want to continue with their policy of deceiving the illiterate villagers. They want to continue with their policy with the help of the public finances of the country, and we, on this side of the House, cannot be a party to placing funds at the disposal of Government for such a purpose. I submit that the Resolution is one which should receive the support of every one who does not want that public money should be wasted. I submit that the Resolution is not intended to impede the war effort. I submit that this National War Front Organisation has neither done in the past, nor is it capable of doing in the future, any good to the people of India. I support the Resolution which is for consideration before this House.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I am very sorry that I cannot respond to the appeal which has been made to me by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bozman, to withdraw this Resolution. On the last occasion I agreed that a chance might be given to the Honourable Member in charge to put up his scheme which I was given to understand would be acceptable to this House. If I had known, Sir, that the scheme which would be proposed, would be like the one which has been placed before the House by the Honourable Secretary of this Department, I should certainly never have agreed even for a minute to withdraw my Resolution. I know, Sir, that the scheme which has been there is bad, and the scheme which is coming in the future will be worse than what we have at present. This will give all those kinds of evils which we have experienced in the past. Now, Sir, I will say what they are, but, before doing so, I will deal with some of the Honourable Members who have made certain remarks.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

One Honourable Member was very right when he said that this organisation provides some livelihood for some *badmashes* in the country, and it is better that they should be so provided in order that they may not do some other mischief outside. If that is the idea, I think it speaks very well for the organisation that it is only for providing jobs for the *badmashes* in the country to keep them busy and keep them away from doing greater mischief. I do not know who these *badmashes* are. I have found many Honourable Members coming forward speaking on behalf of the organisations either in their provinces or in their district. I hope the Honourable Member who made this remark did not include any of these Honourable Members.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): You were once a member of the War Front.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: My friend Mr. Chatterjee says there is no nation which is engaged in the war, which has not got a similar organisation. I quite agree that is so where a nation is fighting as a nation, but here the difficulty is—he has made a mistake which has been pointed out by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum—it is not the nation which is fighting. You are using the word wrongly when you say that the Indian nation is fighting the war or is taking any part in this organisation.

(Interruption.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: One can easily understand that there is some national war front when a nation is engaged in the war, but is it a fact that the Indian nation is engaged in the war? That is where the mistake has been made, and I think those Honourable Members who speak on behalf of the Government or who are put up by Government, should take care that they do not make Government ridiculous at least in their advocacy on behalf of the Government.

An Honourable Member: That is the only good thing they do.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Then, another gentleman, Capt. Dalpat Singh, who was put up by Government, spoke for a few minutes. Sir, I do not know what he means when he says that war in the Far East will start after the defeat of Germany. I think he ought to have been wiser, he ought to have known that war has already started, not only started but has gone far ahead, in the Far East. Half of Burma has already been conquered, Tokio has already been bombarded, many islands have already been taken away from Japan. So, war has already started, there is no such thing that it will start after Germany has been defeated. You cannot wait till you have defeated one enemy as the other enemy will come up into your house. So, to say that until Germany is defeated and war starts in the Far East time may be allowed for this organisation is a novel kind of argument.

My Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dimshaw Dalal, has, as usual, put up the case which had been put up by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir the other day in much better way. He has done full justice to his Presidency but I do not know whether the things he mentioned that the National War Front was doing, come under the purview of the National War Front at all. They have been repudiated by the Secretary of the Department. So I think this will open his eyes.

Now Mr. Bozman says that some patriotic and energetic gentlemen, non-officials, have been helping in this National War Front Organisation. It may be so as regards a few exceptions, but most of the people, who are engaged there, are the exact reverse of the people as described by my friend Mr. Bozman. I find that a man who has joined the National War Front goes next day to the District Magistrate, and says—give me a monopoly for such and such a thing, I have worked for the National War Front. He goes and says—"look here, here is my son or my nephew or somebody else who wants a job, what are you going to do for him, I have taken part in the National War Front". If the Honourable Member will scrutinise all the applications for jobs, he will find in 99 per cent. of them it is put down "I have rendered such and such services in the

national war front". They want their price. If a man wants his price for the work, can you call it patriotic or that he has done the work on account of patriotism? That is not a good and proper description of his work. There are some people who are patriotic—I do not doubt it. Some of them have worked and sincerely helped in the war effort; but to say that all the persons engaged in this war front are of this description is absolutely wrong.

As regards the scheme which has been proposed: there are to be three classes or categories—district, regional and provincial. Now, I ask whether the kind of things which I condemned and in which I have been supported even by Honourable Members like Sir Cowasjee Jehangir and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, that if these evils existed they ought to be condemned—cannot these be carried on through the organisation which is now being proposed to be substituted for the present organisation? I have said that public money has been wrongly used and there has been party propaganda and terrorising and all other evils mentioned by me. Is this organisation now proposed to be set up not liable to these abuses?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: No.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I say 'yes': when the Ministry in any province wants to make propaganda in the villages, what will they do? They will, as my Honourable friend says, take a lorry with a cinema show and gramophone records and then there will be a singer—I do not know whether it will be male or female and I take it as being usual in this country, it is a female singer that will sing, and as he says, there will be people who will dance in front, who will, I suppose be the non-official patriots. I would like to know whether Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Sir Ratanji Dalal and Captain Dalsat Singh will give demonstrations of their dances as patriotic people: then I will gladly go to see that cinema where this show is organised by this department

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That will happen when you are a minister.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I will ask Sir Cowasjee Jehangir to come and dance before this show.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Provided the Honourable Member is minister, I will do so.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I would like to see how beautifully he dances. I am sure he knows the art well: as he can speak well, he can dance well. This will be interesting for the non-official patriots who have been described by the Honourable Mr. Bozman . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated: Non-Official): We object to Sir Cowasjee Jehangir dancing.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes; but what about Sir Ratanji Dalal? This organisation will be going into the villages, just like the *Bhanda* and *Sanshyas*, who go about and make propaganda for this Government

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have got one minute more.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: They will say "The Provincial Government has done such nice things for you; they have brought so much redress and plenty for you: look at all the benefits they have brought for you: will you not vote for them?" The ultimate thing is the vote. It is a vote catching device and the Honourable Member is placing the whole machinery in the hands of people whom I have condemned, and the organisation will be more open to abuse than before. I am glad that my Honourable friend says that after all light has come on him and the poor villager should be provided a little amusement. May I know how many times in the year this party of dancers and musicians will go to the villages?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Therefore this scheme is unacceptable to me and I am sorry that I cannot accept it. I will press my Resolution to vote,

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

and I hope that the Government will wipe off this item from the Budget if they have provided anything there.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: They have: I have looked into it.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): There is an amendment to this Resolution. I will put the amendment first. The question is:

"That after the words 'Governor General in Council' the words 'to immediately take steps' be inserted, and that at the end of the Resolution the words 'in the Centre and the Provinces' be added."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I will now put the Resolution as amended. The question is:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to immediately take steps to abolish the National War Front Branch of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and to liquidate forthwith the National War Front Organisation in the Centre and the Provinces."

The Assembly divided:

AYES.—55.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qayyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Esaak Seit, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. K. S.
Habibur Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.

Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Murtaza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Siterama.
Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr. A.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sipha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

NOES.—43.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Bhagchand Soni, Bai Bahadur Sir Seth.
Bozman, Mr. G. S.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dimshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeahir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haider.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
James, Sir F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shamsul-Ulema.

Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.
Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Piare Lall Kureel, Mr.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
Spence, Sir George.
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Sukthankar, Mr. Y. N.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE. REMOVAL OF SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that early action be taken for the removal of sections 111 to 121 (both inclusive) of the Government of India Act, 1935."

Sir, I wish to make it quite clear at the start that I am not attempting to deal with any large political issue involved in the 321 sections of the Government of India Act. I am only referring to the removal of certain offensive clauses in the Government of India Act, which have crept in by the backdoor, which are derogatory to the dignity and the self-respect of the people of this country, and which seek to restrict the legislative power of this House and this Assembly. The history of these clauses is a very long one. The Simon Commission, while it recognised that there were certain interests

4 P.M. which must be attended to recommended that these should be attended to by a convention. Later on, there were various further deliberations, there were the three Round Table conferences, there was the Joint Select Committee and at various stages, all the people, including the European commercial interest of this country represented by the then Mr. Edward Benthall, all of them wanted these provisions to be made by convention and treaty and not by statute. Sir, Indian leaders were at no time advocating any discrimination. The Nehru Committee in 1928, definitely laid down that there shall be no discrimination on racial grounds. The first formula which was agreed upon in the first Round Table Conference was a small and narrow one, namely, that there shall be no discrimination on racial grounds of any person or company from the United Kingdom. From that first simple formula, how the ponderous march of files went round; how it grew into eleven complete complicated sections which restrict the power of this legislature as well as the power of all administrations in India, both Provincial and Central, in order to deal with the simple economic issues affecting the life of the people—that is a long history. I have got many extracts here, but I would content myself by saying that many of our senior leaders got step by step into consenting something more, then something more and then something more, but one leader who was at all times consistently opposed to them was Mr. Jinnah. Sir, these are sections which were described by the then Prime Minister as during the transitory period. I do not know how long that transitory period is going to continue, but these sections have continued with us. These sections were introduced through mistrust, through a suspicion of the Indian people. It was deliberately done as the Right Honourable Mr. Sastri described as blackmail. We had no choice, our people were told, either take these sections or there is no political progress and reform. They were made to accept these provisions, they were forced to accept. Then, Sir when these sections were introduced, the particular ground which was put forward was that England had lent India considerable sums of money and that India was a debtor country and that if the debtor should default, there should be definite guarantees and assurances. It was in this atmosphere and on the pretext that the creditor was entitled to these guarantees that these sections were passed. Sir, the boot is now on the other leg. Every one of the loans outstanding at that time has been taken back by England with compound interest, they have all been repaid. Then against our will and without any consultation with this House, large sums of money belonging to this country have been taken away to United Kingdom in the form of sterling balances, for the accounts of which, for the disposal of which, for the orderly return of which we are making attempts in this House but without any results. Sir, the situation has very much altered. These sections which disfigure the Statute book of the constitution governing this country find no counterpart in the constitution of any Dominion in the British Commonwealth. These are issues on which there never was any difference of

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

opinion between any section of the Indian population. All the leaders who went to the other place, all of them—and I have got numerous quotations from most of my friends sitting on the opposite side to show that—all of them agreed that this was not desirable even in the interest of England that such provision should exist in the statute book and that they will not create goodwill, but will lay the foundation for ill will, the foundation for bitterness and suspicion and that they should be removed. These extra territorial rights which European firms, individuals, companies, and corporations seek in this country have no counterpart in any free constitution. Further the most objectionable feature of these particular sections is that they were extracted from India on the plea that they were reciprocal and that they betoken equal partnership. Sir, much has been said about this reciprocity and this House will remember the famous dictum of Mahatma Gandhi when he described the partnership as one between a giant and a dwarf. Sir, we have also in the Income-tax Act a section which gives reciprocal tax relief to Britishers in this country, a section under which I estimate Indians gain to the extent of about three lakhs and India gives benefit to Englishmen to the extent of about 70 lakhs. We have such reciprocity in so many other fields and I have no doubt that Honourable Members who will follow me will be able to point out how this plea of reciprocity and partnership, every time it is mentioned between England and India, is onesided.

Sir, the phrase used by Mr. Jinnah with regard to these safeguards of commercial discrimination was 'iron wall'. He said 'I am being sought to be confined between two iron walls', referring first to the Princes and then he referred to commercial and other safeguards. Now, Sir, these may be called sentimental grounds why we do not want these sections. A kind of new self respect has grown over this country, as over the populations in other parts of the world due to war and the moral upheaval and we see the almighty conservative Premier Churchill thinking it proper to go and pay his respects to King Farouk of Egypt! The three great Allies are saying that they want to serve the world and not rule it. The Atlantic Charter which the two wily politicians, like Roosevelt and Churchill repudiated has had to be swallowed by them at the instance of Mr. Stalin as being applicable not merely to the small nations in Europe but as applicable to all mankind. There is a new spirit in the world and India shares in that spirit, in spite of the unusual harsh methods applied by the Government of the day with regard to many matters, political as well as economic. Sir, These may be called sentimental grounds. But there are practical grounds on which also I desire that these sections should be removed. What are the practical grounds? The Government of India have set up the Department of Planning and Development. They have appointed an Honourable Member in charge of this Department. He moves from department to department and from one provincial centre to the other; and we have been blessed with two books purporting to be a preliminary report of the Policy Committees. We have been blessed with plans of 400 crores to be spent for making roads. In this country where men are dying for want of a little food, they are going to make roads at an expenditure of 400 crores. What do you want to make these roads for? To reach the villages in order to pick up dead bodies? Sir, British vested interests are behind this road programme. There is the motor interest and the petrol interests, there is the asphalt interest, there is the cement interest; there are so many other interests behind all these plans and programmes which are coming out from the Government of India that we have very serious apprehensions. Now, look at the other method. Twenty-nine panels, which my Honourable friend Sir Ziauddin criticised the other day, have been set up, picking out one man here and one man there and their reports are embodied and they are all summarised and we have them in the Policy Committees reports. What is this? You pick out a suitable, convenient business man, move him over here, feast him at lunch, talk him over and make a plan of some kind. That is not the kind of plan that India wants.

I think there is also a mystery. I do not know whether the Bombay planners have converted this Government or whether this Government have converted the Bombay planners. But let me say that neither the Government plan nor the Bombay plan will be acceptable to this country. We do not want a plan which is made behind the back of the people. Sir Chintamani Deshmukh, the Reserve Bank Governor, said the other day that no plan can succeed without a tremendous popular drive and without the support of the whole people behind it. Even the *London Times* was compelled the other day to say the same thing. Sir, what do we find? Here are missions going to England; private missions like that of Sir Jeremy Raisman, secret missions like that of Sir Theodore Gregory, service missions like the Hydari mission. These missions are going to England. The reply of the Finance Member always is, "Please refer to my Budget speech last time" or "Please wait till the Budget speech next time". Nothing is told to us about these missions before they start from here. We are told nothing of what they did, we are told nothing after they return from there. A more deliberate slight to this Legislature I cannot imagine; and now on top of that comes the Mission of big business proceeding to the United Kingdom. What they are going for we are not told; what will they do there? What is their agenda, what are the proposals or purposes? We are told nothing; now we hear a most disturbing piece of news that the Honourable the Planning Member is himself proceeding to England! May I know what he is going for? Is he proceeding there to officiate as a priest in the illegitimate marriage of big business from India with big business of the United Kingdom?

Thus we see that the Planning Member has a lot of difficulties. In those difficulties I do not know whether he is assisted uniformly by all his colleagues. Whether particularly he is receiving assistance from Sir Edward Benthall who represents interests which fear that they will have something to lose from the kind of planning which this country wants.

Sir, another indication of the kind of reception which the planning programme of this country would get was given by the Finance Member in his Budget speech. If I wanted to characterise the career of the Finance Member I would say that he has thought of nothing except the war, the whole war and nothing but the war. This is the position he has taken throughout his stewardship; this is the position which he has now taken. In other words, he has now created a definite set-back and a definite speeding down of the Planning Department's activities as even the *Statesman*—generally a pro-Government paper—was compelled to remark.

In all these difficulties which the Planning Department has, I find the biggest, however, is the existence of these sections which must go. Sir, what is the kind of industrial progress which we want in this country? Do we want industrial progress by the companies which are known as India, Limited, which have been set up in this country by the hundreds? Do we want the kind of progress that we had in match manufacture, when not only a British registered company but a foreign company registered in Britain came and established itself in a supreme position in the field of match manufacture and literally killed and sent into liquidation so many match factories? Sir, we have the phenomenon of Lever Brothers establishing themselves on a large scale in Bombay. What is the result? Forty-two small soap factories in Bombay have gone into liquidation. We have various other concerns of this kind, big giants like Imperial Chemical Industries; large corporations in shipping, banking and insurance. On this issue I want to read to you a passage from a joint memorandum which was submitted by several members, including the President of this Assembly and including also my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar. They said:

"These, however, do not exhaust the methods by which other countries, including Great Britain, have attempted to develop indigenous industries or to counteract attempts made by foreign companies to frustrate the objects of a protective tariff. The particular difficulty, which is disturbing the minds of Indian commercial men, is the possibility of powerful foreign trusts establishing themselves in India and making it impossible for Indian industries

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

to develop, not necessarily by methods which in ordinary commercial practice would be regarded as unfair, but by their superior resources, powers of organisation, political influence, etc."

This is the kind of cartels and pools and large corporations which we fear would invade this country, take advantage of the tariffs, take advantage of the patronage which Government are throwing about. And what is the Planning Member to do so long as there is the existence of these sections in the Statute book?

Besides that, Sir, what we feel is this. It is not what industry we shall have in this country afterwards; we are more concerned with the industry which exists now, which is in very dire distress because it is not getting coal, it is not getting raw material, it is not getting priorities, it is not getting spare parts, it is not getting licenses and permits, it is not getting the dollar exchange. There are so many difficulties on which representations are being sent from Chambers of Commerce; questions are being asked. Has the Planning Member any power to intercede at this stage? He was told off yesterday; he was told where to get off, he was told that he is the post-war man and has nothing to do with the industry in these times. Then may I know whether the direction in which we are going is,—the same as was the case after the last war—*vis.*, heavy liquidation—such humble development in industry as has been achieved during the war in this country, permitting that to be destroyed in the first instance and after that planning and promising big affairs? And when these big affairs are being planned, where is he going? To England. He is taking his colleagues to England. Sir Jeremy Raisman is going; and I understand two or three other Members of the Executive Council also are going. None of our work can be done in this country; it seems we can plan better when we plan out in England in company and consultation with Englishmen. These are not the sort of ideas we have on planning and we feel that the first things should come first. Amongst the very earliest things which we want is the elimination of these sections, which unduly tie down the hands of this Legislature, of this Government, of every Provincial Government, in doing legitimately and properly whatever is necessary in order to start industry in this country exactly on the lines which were adopted by the United Kingdom itself and other European countries.

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

Does the Honourable Planning Member know about the British Key Industries Act? Is he in a position to have such an Act established in this country? Sir, it may appear as if we are trying to attack British trade, established lawfully and properly in this country. I assure my Honourable friends that nothing is further from our minds. Sir, what we have been trying to do, what we have been trying to achieve in this country fruitlessly for the last thirty years is to get in our own country equal opportunity and equal chance to develop the resources of this country and to exploit the trade of this country for the benefit of this country. I will read, Sir, from the late Sir Phiroze Sethna than whom there could not be a more moderate man in the political field. He says:

"I stated to the Federal Structure Committee, and I repeat, that this is not a case of racial discrimination. It has to do with inequality. Up to now very considerable inequality has prevailed. I had occasion to refer to it at some length at the last Plenary Session, when I said that it was quite easy for an ordinary European merchant to settle a business matter with a Government officer over a whisky and soda at his club, but that it was very difficult for even a prominent Indian to do so; in fact, he would have to kick his heels for hours together before he could gain admission to the official's room; I know all that has been changing since the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms and will go on improving in the future, but this inequality in the past has rankled in the minds of the Indians and made the position of the Britisher so very much stronger in commercial affairs, stronger than it would otherwise have been. My friend, Sir Cowaji Jehangir, quoted yesterday the case of a prominent Indian firm, whose senior could not get anything out of the Government, whereas his paid British official was able to do so. These instances can be multiplied, and our European friends at this Conference or outside have not dared to contradict them and cannot dare to do so, for the simple reason that until recently this sort of thing was an every day affair. Indians do not want to discriminate against the Britishers in the matter of commerce."

Sir, our effort has been throughout to remove this preference. May I tell this House that the biggest business house in India is even today compelled to engage a European representative at the headquarters of the Government of India in order to get their work done?"

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): And English business houses employ Indians for the same reason.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: It is the business house which knows what the value of money is. They would not spend the money if they did not feel that they were getting their money's worth, and, Sir, that they have to do this today is itself a sufficient commentary and speaks volumes.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir says the same thing. Mr. Jayakar also says the same thing:

"Even now, I would urge upon the attention of His Majesty's Government some method by which these difficulties might be overcome and an appropriate convention established between the two countries, even after the new Constitution is offered to India."

But what Mr. Jayakar says with regard to reciprocity is worth listening to:

"Reciprocity in any case, between a rich and industrially powerful country like Great Britain and a poor and backward country like India is a bit of camouflage, but as applied to administrative discrimination it is nothing less than moonshine."

This is exactly the law which still exists on the Statute book of this country and I am asking the Government to accept this Resolution and to remove this section.

Now, Sir, how much influence and support the European business houses in India give to the European officials and *vice versa* will be noticed when reply is given to what few remarks I am making. It will be noticed in this House that a solid column of unity and combination will emerge from the opposite side.

Perhaps I might tell Sir Ardeshir Dalal something which he probably never imagined and that is that in 1942 after Sir Stafford Cripps came here and in his offer he mentioned very clearly that there would not be these guarantees and discriminatory clauses, there was an agitation set up in India. As a result of this agitation, there was a debate in the House of Lords, a debate which took the usual course of such debates but in which the Duke of Devonshire, Under-Secretary of State for India, representing his chief Mr. Amery, made the following remarks: He said:

"If Your Lordships think of it, it is really impossible both to make an offer of complete self-government and to exact guarantees for specified British interests We mean what we said about India's constitutional future, and that means we have passed from the conception of tutelage to that of a free and willing partnership. Guarantees other than those arrived at by a process of free negotiation are incompatible with equal partnership and so are all those restrictions upon the freedom which is to be conferred upon India."

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): What is the date of that debate?

Mr. Mannu Subedar: July 30th, 1942.

Sir, he went on further to say:

"We"....."We", meaning the Dominion Office where he had been Under-Secretary,—

"We deal with them and all safeguards and guarantees by discussion and negotiation as between equal partners. I wonder if any of Your Lordships can really doubt which is the better system. The one led to the 'Boston tea-party', the other to the Ottawa Agreement."

Sir, this is a very emphatic statement from the Government of India and I say that the Government are already committed both to the removal of these sections and to the initiation of the negotiations by which this will be substituted. They should have started this on their own as the Joint Select Committee indeed desired and recommended that it was the better course.

That a convention is better instead of a statutory provision has been the universal opinion. It was the opinion of the Symon Commission, it was the opinion of the Prime Minister, it was the opinion of many of my friends who are sitting here who attended the Round Table Conference, it was the opinion

[Mr Manu Subedar.]

also of the Parliament because in section 118 there is a very specific provision made for the substitution by convention and treaty of the sections which I am objecting to. Sir, I will read what Sir Parshotamdas Thakurdas said at the second Session of the Round Table Conference:

"Mr. Benthall says we are equal partners in a Commonwealth of Nations, and asks me to avoid the risks of discrimination and bitterness. In fact he asks us to come into an equal partnership where, if I may use a colloquial phrase, 'what is mine is my own, and what is thine is ours jointly'. It would be a partnership in a Commonwealth which has no precedent or parallel."

I will quote Sir Edward Benthall himself. In 1937 when he negotiated the Trade Treaty between England and India, he said:

"With my colleagues I also attach the greatest importance to the negotiation of an agreement which will give reasonable satisfaction to both parties, the only form of agreement which is likely to be of lasting benefit."

The United Kingdom has shown a *bona fide* desire to meet India's political aspirations."

We have not still seen the fruition of these political aspirations, Sir, because safeguards were put on one side and freedom on the other. We have got the safeguards, we have not got the freedom yet. Sir, I quote:

The United Kingdom has shown a *bona fide* desire to meet India's political aspirations." a time when both countries are menaced by outside dangers a liberal approach to the requirements of the United Kingdom is likely to have an immense moral effect in India's favour."

Now, Sir, when I appeal for the repeal of these offending sections, I also use the words of Sir Edward Benthall that it would have a tremendous moral effect in favour of England; it would be a great goodwill gesture if England is at all capable of making it.

Now, Sir, in the joint memorandum of which, Sir, you have been one of the signatories yourself, we find the same emphasis put with regard to a treaty instead of the statutory provisions:

"India desires to shake hands with Great Britain, to demand a friendship based on a recognition of equality. A proposal that she should be hand-cuffed before she is allowed to shake hands lest she is tempted to strike is hardly the most expedient method of beginning a new era of cordiality and mutual understanding."

Further on:

"We strongly hold the view that a friendly settlement by negotiation is by far the most appropriate and satisfactory method of dealing with this complicated matter. Any statutory safeguards given to British commercial interests would irritate public opinion and would operate as impediments to a friendly settlement. We therefore earnestly suggest the omission of clause 123 of the White Paper and the corresponding clauses in the re-draft We see grave practical objections to any constitutional provisions against administrative discrimination."

"I would have quoted, if I had the time, Mr. Jinnah who described the signatories of this memorandum as the moderate of moderates and who asked: 'What happened to this joint memorandum'? Contemptuously he said, 'It has gone into the waste paper basket.'"

Now, I would like to reply to some of the objections which might come, namely

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken for half an hour.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will finish in two minutes. . . . namely that the Government of India Act cannot be amended piecemeal. It has been so amended ten times over since it was passed. Then they say that many hard things have been said in the past and there is plenty of suspicion now. I think harder things have been said between the United Kingdom Tories and between Russia and still today Churchill has said that Stalin's word is as good as a bond. Times have changed not a little, and I would be surprised, if the same Churchill would not change with regard to us.

In conclusion, Sir, I would only say one word with regard to Mr. Amery. A deputation of scientists had gone to England recently and they say:

"Mr. Amery and the other Cabinet Ministers tell us repeatedly that India now enjoys the fullest economic freedom—the fullest freedom regarding her economic development—and if she fails to take any effective measures in that direction, the responsibility rests solely with the Members of the Government of India."

In other words on you (pointing to Treasury Benches.).

I make an appeal: Give us free collaboration and mutual reciprocal partnership; give us an understanding; extend to us the hand of friendship and we are willing to have a self-respecting treaty with the United Kingdom. But if the Government will not accept this Resolution on the plea that Mr. Amery, the Secretary of State may not want them to do so, then let me point out that Mr. Amery is putting on them the entire burden for India's economic development being hindered: "If she fails to take any effective measures in that direction". How can the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal take any effective measures so long as these sections continue, and yet, "If she fails to take any effective measures in that direction the responsibility rests solely with the Members of the Government of India".

One last word I will say and that is that the American who cannot be bluffed, and who has got penetrating intelligence, has a name for this Government H. A. G.—

H for hypocrisy,
A for arrogance,
G for greed.

I hope that this definition of this Government will not be proved to be correct so far as this little revision of the statute for which I am asking is concerned. We ask for this revision so that the self-respect and honour of this country may be vindicated.

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

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that early action be taken for the removal of sections 111 to 121 (both inclusive) of the Government of India Act, 1935."

Some Members have given notice of amendments to this Resolution.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): May I suggest that these amendments be moved formally and the speeches deferred.

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

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: I am suggesting that these be formally moved and the speeches deferred.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member had better move both his amendments.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: There is one previous to mine.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am not moving it.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Then I move this one. Sir, I move:

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are two?

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: I am moving the shorter of the two. Sir, I move:

"That for the words 'for the removal of' the following be substituted:

'to constitute a Committee consisting of members representing all interests concerned to report to this House on the necessary provisions for replacing or repealing'."

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

"That for the words 'for the removal of' the following be substituted:

'to constitute a Committee consisting of members representing all interests concerned to report to this House on the necessary provisions for replacing or repealing'."

Do you want to move the other amendment?

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: No, Sir, I think the arrangement is for the Government Member to speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir Ardeshir Dalal.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development): Mr. President, the fact that an amendment has been moved and the speeches

[Sir Ardeshir Dalal.]

on it deferred puts me in a somewhat difficult position because I do not know what the implications of that amendment are. Therefore I shall confine myself mainly to the remarks of the Honourable the Mover.

The motion before the House is of great importance and interest both inside and outside India. I congratulate the Honourable the Mover on the studied moderation of his tone and his speech and I would appeal to the other Members of the House to discuss this matter in a dispassionate spirit so that no ill-will or misunderstanding might be created which might complicate an already complicated and difficult situation. It is mainly for that reason that I have decided to intervene at this early state of the debate so that I may be able to explain the attitude of Government in the hope that discussion at a later stage may be confined to the right lines.

The history of the safeguarding clauses is somewhat a long one and I trust the House will bear with me if I give a summary of it.

The question of the future of British commercial interests in India came up for the first time during the Montagu-Chelmsford Enquiry. In paragraph 345 of the Report the joint authors made observations which have not lost their validity through lapse of time. They stated:

"What then are the obligations of the various parties. Clearly it is the duty of British commerce in India to identify itself with the interests of India, which are higher than the interests of any community; to take part in political life; to use its considerable wealth and opportunities to commend itself to India; and having demonstrated both its value and its good intentions, to be content to rest like other industries on the new foundation of government in the wishes of the people. No less is it the duty of Indian politicians to respect the expectations which have implicitly held out; to remember how India has profited by commercial development which only British capital and enterprise achieved; and to abstain from advocating differential treatment aimed not so much at promoting Indian as at injuring British commerce."

These, Sir, are sage words enunciating a wise principle which, if followed in the letter and spirit by both sides, might have avoided much subsequent ill will and misunderstanding, and might perhaps have rendered the enactment of these clauses unnecessary.

The Simon Commission, which considered this question, came to the conclusion, as embodied in para. 156 of Volume II of their Report, that it was not feasible to prevent discriminatory legislation by attempting to define it in a constitutional instrument. Any such provision would in their opinion have to be drawn so widely as to be little more than a statement of abstract principle affording no precise guidance to courts in deciding whether any action complained of was discriminatory.

The question came up again for consideration before the First Round Table Conference in 1930 which adopted the formula that there should be no discrimination between the rights of the British mercantile community, firms and companies trading in India and the rights of Indian born subjects, and that an appropriate convention, based on reciprocity, should be entered into for the purpose of regulating these rights. The second Round Table Conference thought that it would be more appropriate for the future Federal Government of India to negotiate the convention and in the meantime suitable provisions should be embodied in the Constitution Act. The Third Round Table Conference recommended that safeguards should operate in regard to legislative discrimination through specific provisions in the Act and with regard to administrative discrimination through the special responsibilities of the Governor General and the Governors. The distinction sought to be drawn at one stage between persons and companies residing or incorporated in India and those merely trading in India was given up.

The White Paper of 1938 embodied the recommendations of the Reading Committee, but they were modified at a later stage by a memorandum submitted by the Secretary of State to the Joint Parliamentary Committee for the reasons that the White Paper proposals were expressed in too general terms. The British Indian Delegation criticised this memorandum on general lines, and particularly

on the ground that the clauses were drawn up so widely as to prevent legitimate discrimination in favour of Indian industries. The delegation went on to say that if these provisions were embodied in the Constitution Act, the Government would be driven to State Socialism as the only method by which the provisions of the Act could be circumvented. The Delegation further went on to observe that friendly settlement by negotiation was by far the most satisfactory and proper method of dealing with the problem and that statutory safeguards would irritate public opinion and operate as an impediment to friendly settlement.

The Joint Select Committee accepted the Secretary of State's memorandum, including the provision of the "unconditional eligibility" of British businesses already in India to subsidies. I might perhaps explain what this 'unconditional eligibility to subsidies' means. It means that if, for instance, the Government decided to give a subsidy to a comparatively small Indian shipping company to promote the interests of Indian shipping, then they would be compelled to give similar subsidies to the P. and O. and the B. I.

Indian opinion has never reconciled itself to these provisions of the Act. In the Cripps' declaration there was no reference to this matter. The policy of His Majesty's Government was reaffirmed in the House of Commons on the 30th July 1942, when Sir Alfred Knox asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would give him an assurance that in any post-war arrangement for the future Government of India adequate provision would be made for guaranteeing British commercial interests. My Amery replied:

"His Majesty's Government made it clear in connection with the recent offer that a guarantee of special protection for British commercial interests in India would not be a condition for the acceptance of whatever constitution Indians might evolve after the war and that any such provisions would more appropriately be a matter for negotiations with the future Government of India."

My friend Mr. Manu Subedar has already quoted the Duke of Devonshire. But besides that, in the House of Lords on the motion of Lord Cragmire, when several speakers including Lord Cato had spoken and Lord Hailey participated in the debate, in the course of his speech Lord Hailey observed:

"I can only say for myself and, I think, for a large number of others who have interested themselves in the Indian question that when the British Government and the British Parliament representing the British people have made a solemn declaration and made it in the most authoritative form, I should regard it as alike impolitic and dishonourable to suggest that we should hold out to India now anything less than full Dominion Status. It is certain that the imposition of restrictions similar to those contained in the 1935 Act would place India in a position inferior to other Dominions; it would place her, for instance, in an inferior position, if you were to attempt to deny to her the power requiring all companies operating in India to be registered there or if you were to attempt to deny to her the power to require all companies to comply with the Indian law in respect of their constitution or their directorate and the like."

The position then is that in regard to British commercial interests in India His Majesty's Government will negotiate an agreement with a future Government of India. Till that time, the provisions of the existing Act, both in the field of legislation and executive action, will continue. With the adoption of the policy of economic planning and development of the country, including industrial development, these provisions have acquired a significance which they did not have before. Government intend to take a far more active interest in industrial development than they have done in the past. It is contemplated to expand existing industries and to develop a number of new basic industries of great importance to the wellbeing and advancement of India. Under these clauses it is open to any British company with a hundred per cent. British capital and a British directorate to establish itself in India and control such industries. More important still, it is possible for powerful combines and cartels with international ramifications, to do the same. The chances of Indian industrialists competing on equal terms with such combines and companies with their vast experience and resources are very poor. As the Act stands at present, it is not possible for the Government of India to take any measures to help the indigenous industry against such competition. Government realise that Indian opinion does not regard such a state of affairs with satisfaction. It will be a bold man

[Sir Ardeshir Dalal]

who will prophesy when exactly the new constitution is going to come into force. It will probably take some years before the new Constitution Act is placed on the Statute Book, even assuming that all the present outstanding issues are settled at a comparatively early date. But planning for the economic development of India has already commenced and is going ahead. It cannot wait till a constitution is finally settled and becomes the law of the land. The problem is to arrive at some satisfactory solution of this issue. The solution must be sought not in a spirit of mutual antagonism and mistrust but of mutual co-operation and good-will. Under happier political conditions, one can look forward to an ever-widening and almost endless vista of trade and business relationship between Great Britain and India for the benefit and prosperity of both. In the immediate post-war years India has to look to the United Kingdom to a large extent for the supply of capital goods and the expert advice and assistance in the development of its industries which India so sorely needs. Co-operation should be welcome if it does not involve control or domination. That Indian industry should desire to control and direct its policy is a legitimate aspiration which should not be looked upon with hostility or mistrust.

The problem, therefore, is to consider whether it is possible to arrive at any kind of convention or agreement now without waiting for a complete constitutional settlement, so that the industrial development of the country may not be hampered. The difficulties in the way should not be minimised. The trade agreement is intended to be a part of a general political and constitutional settlement. It is difficult to isolate one part only of the whole complex of issues, political as well as economic; and to insist upon its settlement without considering its effect upon the rest. If the spirit in which a solution of this difficult problem is sought is misunderstood either here or in Great Britain, it may have an unsettling effect upon the business communities in both countries, which it is very desirable to avoid at a time when in the interests of India's own development, closer trade relations are being sought. If it is not found feasible to proceed by way of Parliamentary legislation at this juncture pending consideration of the political and other issues involved; it will be necessary to explore the possibility of arriving at some kind of understanding which may remove the apprehensions of the Indian business community regarding the effect of the future operation of these safeguards on the post-war industrial development of India.

I believe, Sir, I have made it quite clear that the Government of India are fully seized of this matter. It is engaging their active and earnest consideration.

As regards the amendment that has been moved, since the speech on the question is deferred, it is very difficult for me, as I have said before, to say anything definitely on the subject. It is not quite clear what the Committee which Mr. Essak Sait proposes, is intended to do, whether it will confine itself to the question of the "safeguards", or whether it will take upon itself the formulation of a comprehensive scheme for the running of key industries, shipping, public utility services, etc., by Provincial Governments or local bodies, and questions of a similar nature as propounded in another amendment by Mr. Essak Sait. Government would desire the object of the amendment to be elucidated further in the course of the debate. They would then like to have an opportunity of further consideration of the matter in the light of the discussions before they decide upon the appointment of a committee or otherwise.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): That is a different amendment altogether.

Sir Oowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): The Honourable Planning Member is correct.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: All that I have to say at the present moment I have mentioned. Government are fully aware of the situation, but they would like to have an opportunity of further consideration of the matter. If what I have said satisfies the Honourable Mover, we can have the matter fully ventilated. It will be reported to the Secretary of State, and then he can make

up his own mind with regard to what he would like to do in respect of this Resolution.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What is in your mind?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I have already stated that Government is fully seized of the matter, they are considering it, they will have further discussion with His Majesty's Government, and will inform the House of the result of that discussion. We will communicate the result of the present discussion to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): That means nothing.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: May I know from Mr. Abdul Qaiyum what he wants Government to do.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I was very anxious to know what they were going to do. In your speech you say that Government has been considering, and are considering. Government will go on considering till perhaps the Doomsday. Their speeches lead nowhere.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Discussions will be carried on with His Majesty's Government in order to see whether a solution of this problem can be arrived at. The discussions that will take place will be communicated to the House. It is not possible for us to do anything more. That is all I have to say.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Mr. President, it is most unfortunate that the debate on so important a subject should have to be postponed for a whole month, because I understand within five minutes we shall adjourn. Our memories are short and by that time we shall have forgotten a great deal of what has been said today. I hope the Honourable Planning Member will send us copies of his speech. Sir, I support the Resolution which has been moved for more than one reason. This matter, as has been explained, is not a new issue by any means, it was discussed threadbare for three to four years in England, and my Honourable friend, the Mover of this Resolution, has quoted extracts from the speeches made during those years. It is not a secret that the whole of the Indian Delegation that went to the Round Table Conference were unanimous that there should be no restriction of any sort on the discretion of the future Government of India. As Mr. Manu Subedar read out, the First Round Table Conference came to a tentative conclusion which, so far as I am concerned, I was not prepared then to accept, but it was by no means as extreme as the resolutions that the British Government came to, not the Indian Delegation, but the British Government came to during the Second and Third Round Table Conferences. I believe it was during the Second Round Table Conference that a Committee was appointed, a more or less non-official Committee, over which Lord Reading presided, representing the British Government. He was not then a member of Government, but he played the part of guide, philosopher and friend of Government during the three Round Table Conferences, and so he was asked to meet some members of the Indian Delegation and try to come to some understanding. I have vivid recollection of all those Committee meetings. There were only three or four of us present with Lord Reading, and you can well imagine that it was not easy to deal with a man of his capacity, knowledge experience and charm of manners. Notwithstanding all that, we had to adjourn on more than one occasion because we could not come to terms. It is most unfortunate that during that period we received no support from our own countrymen in this country, and one of the reasons for our failure, I say it was a failure, was lack of support from India which sealed our lips and made many of our arguments, may I say, weak and untenable. For instance, as Mr. Manu Subedar pointed out, our attention was constantly drawn to the large sums of money this country

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.]

owed England by way of sterling loans. At that time there was some talk in this country of the repudiation of these loans. It might have been only a whisper but it was magnified to such an extent in England that it was thrown in our faces on every possible occasion. We were told that India was already considering repudiating these very loans and we were demanding that there should be no safeguards. Mr. President, do you want me to continue now . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member might stop now and continue on the next occasion. The House will adjourn till Monday.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 5th March, 1945.