

7th November 1944

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume IV, 1944

(1st to 13th November 1944)

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1944

Chamber Fumigated 18.10.73



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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Deputy President :

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

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

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Mr. GOVIND V. DEKSHMUKH, M.L.A.

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 7th November, 1944

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

GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES UNDER CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

122. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands lay a statement on the table of the House giving the grants, both recurring and non-recurring, to the three Universities under the direct control of the Government of India (Delhi, Benares and Aligarh) for the years 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to mention the grants given to the associated colleges of the Delhi University during the same period in addition to the grants given to the University?

(c) Did the Benares and Aligarh Universities approach the Government of India for special recurring and non-recurring grants during the period?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Yes.

Statement

	1939-40		1940-41		1941-42	
	R.	N. R.	R.	N. R.	R.	N. R.
1. Aligarh Muslim University.	3 lakhs		3 lakhs		3 lakhs	
2. Benares Hindu University.	3 lakhs		3 lakhs		3 lakhs	
3. Delhi University	1 lakh		1.25 lakhs.	1.5 lakhs.	1.5 lakhs.	1 lakh
4. Delhi Colleges	98,655	‡1 lakh	97,672	‡50,000	98,521	¶50,000

	1942-43		1943-44		1944-45.	
	R.	N. R.	R.	N. R.	Budget R.	estimates N. R.
1. Aligarh Muslim University.	3 lakhs		‡3.15 lakhs.		‡3.15 lakhs.	
2. Benares Hindu University.	3 lakhs		‡3.15 lakhs.		‡3.15 lakhs.	
3. Delhi University	1.75 lakhs.	1 lakh	‡2,48,693	3 lakhs	‡2.99 lakhs.	50,000
4. Delhi Colleges	97,887	‡50,000	2,83,398		‡2.641 lakhs.	‡2.5 lakhs.

†Including grant for dearness allowance.

‡Grants to Hindu College.

§This amount will be given to the colleges only if they move to the University site. It is, however, unlikely that any of the colleges will be able to move to the University site. No grant will therefore be made to any of the colleges.

¶Grant to A. A. College.

R.—Recurring.
N. R.—Non-recurring.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the reply to part (c)?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The answer is "Yes".

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What reply did the Government of India give?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member did not ask that.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I ask now. May I know whether the Government of India made any grant to the Universities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The answer to that is covered by the statement I have laid on the table.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN ON ALIGARH UNIVERSITY DUE TO INTERMEDIATE CLASSES

123. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is not a fact that the Government of India gave a grant of three lakhs of rupees to the Aligarh University at a time when Intermediate Classes did not form part of University education?

(b) Is it not a fact that in subsequent years the Government of India by its own enactment abolished the Intermediate College in the Aligarh University and transferred the teaching of Intermediate Classes to the University?

(c) Did the Government of India realise that by such an enactment the responsibility of the maintenance of the Intermediate College was transferred from the Provincial Government to the Central Government?

(d) Is it not a fact that Intermediate Classes are now maintained out of the grant of three lakhs of rupees which the Government of India gave about thirteen years ago?

(e) Are the Government of India aware of the fact that the burden of maintaining the Intermediate Classes has fallen on the University which was previously under the Provincial Government which means an expense of about one lakh of rupees per annum on the University?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The annual recurring grant to the Aligarh Muslim University was increased from Rs. 1.25 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs with effect from 1930-31.

(b) Legislation to amend the Aligarh Muslim University Act with a view to abolishing the Intermediate College and transferring the teaching of Intermediate Classes to the University was undertaken by Government in 1931 at the express request of the University.

(c), (d) and (e). It is understood that the grant made by the Government of the United Provinces to the Intermediate College, Aligarh Muslim University, was transferred by that Government to the University after the passing of the Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Act, 1931. The Honourable Member was personally apprised of this position in 1931.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the grant was sanctioned a year before the passing of the Act by which they abolished the Intermediate College?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Intermediate College was abolished after the grant of 3 lakhs.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: At the time the grant was given, Intermediate classes did not exist and this grant was for the Post-Intermediate classes?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not admit that all. The Aligarh University was supporting the Intermediate College before that College was abolished. I suppose it is supporting the Intermediate classes since that College was abolished.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Prior to the abolition, the Intermediate College was supported by the Provincial Government and after the enactment by the Government of India of the Act of 1931 the responsibility was transferred entirely from the Provincial Government to the Central Government and we have been maintaining it out of the grant of three lakhs. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I understand not.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the Provincial Government was supporting the Intermediate College prior to its abolition by enactment of the Government of India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: They gave a small grant which, I understand, was transferred to the University when the Intermediate classes were transferred to the University.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This really means that the grant which was previously given by the Provincial Government is now transferred to the University, which means out of the grant of three lakhs which the Government is giving us.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member has misunderstood me. The Government of the United Provinces made a grant to the Intermediate College

and I understand that when the Intermediate College was closed and the classes were transferred to the University, the Government of the United Provinces transferred that grant to the University.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: That is not a fact. The Intermediate classes have been expanding and the number has now trebled and the Government of the United Provinces does not give the grant equivalent to half the expenditure. They have clearly said that it is not their responsibility. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I have no information on that point.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: At the time the Government of India Act was passed, Sir Fazl-i-Hussain the then Education Member gave me clearly to understand that any financial loss of revenue to the University will be compensated by the Government of India. It is not on record. I wanted to expose it on the floor of the House but I was asked not to speak and the Bill got through in five minutes. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: This is the subject matter of a later question.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN ON ALIGARH UNIVERSITY DUE TO INTERMEDIATE CLASSES

124. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is not a fact that by the enactment mentioned in the previous question private candidates cannot appear in the Intermediate Examination as they could do prior to the enactment?

(b) Are the Government aware that the loss of income to the University on account of stopping private candidates from appearing at the Intermediate Examination amounts to Rs. 40,000 per annum?

(c) Are the Government of India aware that the Honourable the Education Member then in charge promised to compensate the losses of the University? Was any compensation ever given? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Act, 1931, did not affect the power of the University to admit private candidates to its examinations. The University of its own accord had restricted admission of private candidates to the Intermediate Examination prior to the enactment of the 1931 amending act.

(b) No.

(c) Government are not aware of any such promise. The second and third parts of the question do not arise.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Prior to 1931, the Intermediate Examination did not form part of the University. After passing the Act, the Intermediate Examination was transferred from its independent position to the University and under section 5(3)(a) of the Act, private candidates are prohibited. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The University by its own action had precluded itself from admitting private candidates to the Intermediate examination before the Act of 1931 was passed and the Act of 1931 did not alter that position.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My friend does not know that the Government of India sent Mr. Richey and asked us to abolish the system of private candidates altogether. We did that. Afterwards, is it not a fact that the Government of India went to the Governor and asked us to abolish the system of private candidates, both High School and Intermediate?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member cannot have a debate on a question like this. It cannot be done by means of question and answer.

WAR EFFORTS OF ALIGARH UNIVERSITY

125. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware of the war efforts of the Aligarh University?

(b) Did the Government of India in any of its reports mention the war efforts of the Aligarh University?

(c) Did the Government of India make any contribution to meet the expenditure incurred during the war by the University in connection with war efforts?

(d) Does the Education Department realise that all the war work in the University has got educative value and, as such, it comes directly within the purview of the Education Department?

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

(b) The Department of Education, Health and Lands have not published any report in which war efforts of the Aligarh University could be mentioned.

(c) Yes. The Honourable Member, as the Vice-Chancellor of the University, is well aware that assistance is being given by the Departments of Labour and War to the University in connection with their war efforts.

(d) War work done in a University may have its educative value but as such work is of a specific character and is undertaken primarily with a view to promote war efforts, it comes within the purview of the departments directly concerned in the matter.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Am I to understand that the Government of India in the Education Department is not aware that India is at war? These efforts have an educative value, if they have no educative value the University will have nothing to do with them. We are not Military Staff College.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the nature of the war effort that the Aligarh University is carrying on and which the other Universities are not carrying on?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I have not had notice of that question.

Sardar Sant Singh: How has the Honourable Member made a reply with regard to the war effort if he did not know the nature of the war effort?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I know the nature of the war effort which is being made by the Aligarh University, but my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga has asked me about the war efforts that are being made by the other Universities. Of that I have had no notice.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I ask what is the special war effort that is made by the Aligarh University?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: To that I can reply. There is the formation of an Indian Air Training Corps, the establishment of an Aeronautical Workshop and work for war technicians in respect of which a hostel has been erected. Those, I think, are the principal lines of war work.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: We have also got a pre-cadet school which is one of the most important institution and also an institute of military science.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am prepared to take it from the Honourable Member.

POLICY RE SELECTION OF CONTROL GOODS SHOPS

126. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the policy of the Government in the selection of shops for the sale of various goods under control? Is it not a fact that the policy of the Government is to select those persons who controlled the trade before the beginning of Government control?

(b) Have the Government only selected the individuals to run the controlled shops, or have they also allocated the quota?

(c) Have they introduced the system of control shops in the districts of Surat and Ahmedabad and, if so, how are the persons selected to sell the controlled articles? What quota has been given to each community? Has the quota been given in proportion to the volume of the trade each community had before the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government's policy in the selection of shops for the sale of controlled goods is to interfere as little as possible with normal trade channels, and to make use as far as possible of those persons

who were in the trade over a period of time before the beginning of Government control.

(b) Government makes use of a quota system for the distribution of controlled woollen goods of Indian manufacture, cotton textiles and scheduled wireless sets.

(c) Government has some recognised dealers in Indian woollen goods and scheduled wireless sets in Ahmedabad, but not in Surat. There are selected dealers in brass utensils manufactured out of brass released by Government in Ahmedabad and Surat. Selection of dealers is made from amongst those who are established and considered to be eligible, and was not made on community basis. The conditions of eligibility vary according to the articles controlled, but are based on normal trade practices.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask why was Surat excluded because the complaint came from there that you do not apply the normal rules there because they would benefit a certain class of people?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would rather like to have notice of that question, but as far as I am aware they were distributed on the basis of the applications made. Several times it has come to my notice that places have been excluded because dealers did not apply in time. But I should like to have notice of the question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the same policy applies to the distribution of consumer goods which are now imported under the lend-lease?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that these shops or most of them are being given only to those who are the favourites of the Government and who have done something for them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I categorically deny this statement and challenge the Honourable Member to prove one single case in which this has been done.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the case of Sind where shops are being given to such persons as are the favourites of Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sind may be a special favourite of my Honourable friend, but we have distributed in Sind, as elsewhere, on uniform principles.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries to find out what is the real case, because even the District Magistrate admitted to me by saying that they have been given to some favourites of Government who had done something for the Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If the Honourable Member mentions to me some concrete cases, I shall be glad to make inquiries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps Government have taken or propose to take in order to prevent any arbitrary use of the power of licensing these various shops and selecting some shop-keepers with reference to orders?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know if any such rules can be made which can be said to be entirely fool-proof, but all I can say is that for the last 18 months I have been keeping a careful watch on the representations which have been made to me on the score of distribution. The difficulty, however, comes in because of the fact that we have not got enough commodities. We have to give them to some and therefore we generally follow the practice of inviting applications and get names from the Government and from the local people in some cases. Generally, we hold a Conference of the trade interests and after that the lists are published. Even thereafter, if there is any such case which has for some reason or other been excluded, we try to incorporate it as far as possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of constituting local Advisory Committees in view of the fact that Government already have proposed to hold a Conference of the trade interests in the matter and take their advice before they make their final choice?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Advisory Committees are attached to the Controller-General at Bombay of different trades. In addition to them, we have constituted a Consumers' Council wherein there are representatives of some of the newspaper interests of biggest circulation, members of this House, representatives of the public, educational interests and various other interests. Up till now we have had two meetings of this Council, which is representative of all the provinces. There has not been a single complaint on that score but I shall certainly go into this matter to find out if we can do anything further in this matter.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member, especially after the challenge that he has held out and which I receive so far as Lyallpur is concerned, what steps has he taken to make it clear to the provincial persons who are in charge of this controlled business that the policy which is adopted by the Government of India is followed by them in actual practice?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have repeatedly drawn the principles of the Circular to the notice of the provincial authorities and we get weekly reports. In addition to that, I have always received representations supported and endorsed by some of the Honourable Members of this House and have always looked into them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they made it clear to the local authorities that no political considerations should come in when they decide matters of licences?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF CERTAIN OFFICES UNDER THE
LABOUR DEPARTMENT

127. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state specifically and separately the number of posts carrying monthly salaries between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750, Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500, Rs. 1,500 and above in (i) his Department (Labour), (ii) Central Public Works Department, (iii) the office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery, (iv) the Central Stationery Office, (v) the Central Forms Store, (vi) the Central Publication Branch, (vii) the Government of India Presses, (viii) the Explosives Department, and (ix) Miscellaneous?

(b) What is the number of (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Muslims, (iv) Hindus, (v) Depressed Classes, (vi) Sikhs, and (vii) Indian Christians holding such posts? (Please give the number, separately for each community under each head.)

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The distribution of the posts is as under:

Departments	Posts carrying pay between			
	Rs. 500— 750	Rs. 750 1,000	Rs. 1,000 1,500	1,500 and over
Labour Department	19	4	13	10
Central P. W. D.	25	50	2	15
Stationery and Printing	10	7	1	1
Explosives	2	1	1	1
Miscellaneous	71	70	24	26
Total	127	132	41	53

(b) A detailed statement showing the appointments made community-wise is laid on the table. The position in a summary form is as follows:—

Statement I.

Name of the community	Ra. 500 and Ra. 750					Posts Carrying Ra. 750 and Ra. 1,000				
	Lab. Dept.	Central P. W. D.	Sty. and Ptg.	Misc.	Total	Lab. Dept.	Central P. W. D.	Sty. and Ptg.	Misc.	Total
	Europeans		3	...	1	4	2	5	5	19	31
Anglo-Indians		1	1	1	3	...	1	1	2	24
Muslims	1	4	...	11	16	...	9	...	9	18
Hindus	16	15	8	40	79	2	25	1	30	68
Sikhs	...	...	...	5	5	...	2	...	2	4
Scheduled Caste	1	...	...	3	4	...	3	...	...	3
Indian Christian	1	2	1	4	8	...	5	...	5	10
Others	...	...	...	1 7 (Vacant)	8	...	...	...	2 2 (Vacant)	4
Total	19	25	10	73	127	4	50	7	71	132

Pay Between

Name of the community	Ra. 1,000 and Ra. 1,500.					Over Ra. 1,500.				
	Lab. Dept.	Central P. W. D.	Sty. and Ptg.	Misc.	Total	Lab. Dept.	C. P. W. D.	Sty. and Ptg.	Misc.	Total
Europeans	2	1	1	7	11	4	8	...	15	27
Anglo-Indians	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Muslims	3	...	...	3	6	2	1	...	1	4
Hindus	7	1	...	13	21	4	4	1	9	18
Sikhs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Scheduled Caste	1	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	...
Indian Christian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 (Vacant)	1
Total	13	2	1	25	41	10	15	1	27	58

Statement II

Department	No. of posts	Posts carrying pay between.			
		Ra. 500 and Ra. 750	Ra. 750 and Ra. 1,000	Ra. 1,000 and Ra. 1,500	Ra. 1,500 and over
Department of Labour	Between Ra. 500 and Ra. 750	19	1 (I. C.)		
	Between Ra. 750 and Ra. 1,000	4	16 (H.)	2 (E.)	4 (E.)
	Between Ra. 1,000 and Ra. 1,500	13	1 (M.)	9 2(H.)	3 (M.) 2 (M.)
	Ra. 1,500 and over	10	1 (S. C.)		7 (H.) 4 (H.)
	Total	46			1 (S. C.)
Central P. W. D.	Between Ra. 500 and Ra. 750	25	3 (E.)	5 (E.)	1 (E.) 8 (E.)
	Between Ra. 750 and Ra. 1,000	50	1 (A. I.)	1 (A. I.)	1 (M.) 1 (A. I.)
	Between Ra. 1,000 and Ra. 1,500	2	4 (N.)	9 (M.)	1 (M.) 1 (M.)
	Ra. 1,500 and over	15	15 (H.)	25 (H.)	15 (H.) 4 (H.)
	Total	92	2 (I. C.)	3 (S. C.)	2 (S.)
Controller of Printing and Stationery.	Between Ra. 500 and Ra. 750	3	1 (A. I.)		1 (H)
	Between Ra. 750 and Ra. 1,500	3	2 (H.)	2 (E.)	
	Ra. 1,500 and over	1		1 (A. I.)	
Total	7				

Department	No. of posts	Posts carrying pay between			
		Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	Rs. 1,500 and over
Central Stationery Office	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	4	4 (H.)	1 (H.)	
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	2		1 (H.)	
	Total	6			
Central Forms Store	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	1	1 (H.)	...	...
Central Publication Branch.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	1	1 (I. C.)	...	...
Government of India Presses.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	1	1 (H.)	2 (H.)	1 (H.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,500	3			...
	Total	4			
Explosives Department	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	2	2 (H.)	1 (H.)	1 (H.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	1			
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	1			
	Between Rs. 1,500 and over	1			
	Total	5			
<i>Miscellaneous—</i> Geological Survey of India, Mines and Indian School of Mines.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	9	5 (H.)	5 (H.)	5 (H.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	14	3 (S.)	8 (H.)	4 (H.)
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	9	1 (I. C.)	1 (I. C.)	
	Between Rs. 1,500 and over	12			
	Total	44			
Indian Waterways Experiment Station, Poona	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	1	...	1 (H.)	...
	Between Rs. 1,500 and over	1			1 (H.)
	Total	2			
Civil Pioneer Force	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	37	1 (H.)	6 (H.)	...
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	29	8 (M.)	1 (A. I.)	2 (H.)
	Between Rs. 1,500 and over	2	19 (H.)	10 (H.)	
			2 (S. C.)	1 (S.)	
	Total	68	1 (S.)	2 (I. C.)	
			3 (I. C.)	7 (M.)	2 (Vacant).
Labour Welfare Adviser	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	3	2 (H.)	1 (H.)	1 (H.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	1	1 (M.)		
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	1			
	Total	5			
Conciliation Officer (Elys.) and Supervisor of Ely. Labour.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	1	1 (H.)	1 (M.)	2 (% C.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	2		1 (S.)	2 (H.)
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	5			1 (M.)
	Rs. 1,500 and over	1			
	Total	9			
Chief Adviser, Factory A. R. P.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	2	2 (H.)	2 (H.)	1 (H.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	7		1 (Paral)	2 (H.)
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	3		1 (M.)	
	Rs. 1,500 and over	2		3 (H.)	
	Total	14			
Technical Training Scheme.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	18	9 (H.)	4 (H.)	4 (H.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	15	2 (M.)	1 (A. I.)	1 (M.)
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	5	1 (S.)	8 (H.)	4 (H.)
	Rs. 1,500 and over	9	1 (A. I.)	1 (I. C.)	1 (I. C.)
	Total	47	5 (vacant)	1 (Jew)	1 (vacant)
Labour Welfare Injury Scheme.	Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750	1	1 (S. C.)	1 (I. C.)	1 (M.)
	Between Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000	1			
	Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500	1			
	Total	3			

NOTE.—H. stands for Hindus, M. for Muslims, E. for Europeans, A. I. for Anglo-Indians, S. C. for Scheduled Class, S. for Sikhs, I. C. for Indian-Christians, O. C. Other Minority Community
*79 posts held by British Specialist Instructors directly recruited in the U. K. have not been included in the statement.

RELEGATED POSITION OF INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE.

128. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that in a photograph taken of all delegates from the various colonies and dependencies of the British Commonwealth to the War Conference held in London the two representatives of India, the Honourable Sir Feroze Khan Noon and His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir, were

made to stand behind the chairs occupied by the representatives of the colonies? If so, are the Government of India aware that it has given great offence to the Indian public for keeping His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir as an inferior to the white representatives from the colonies?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have seen a group photograph but have no information if the Honourable Sir Firoz Khan Noon and His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir were made to stand as they did. I have also no information about the feeling of the Indian public.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know what were his own reactions after seeing the photograph that the representatives of India were made to stand behind the Premiers of the Dominions?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: These two gentlemen were standing along with a good number of white gentlemen and it does not appear to me that the position of inequality in the photograph was decided on racial grounds. I do not think that my countrymen are so foolish as to raise a storm in a tea cup. The matter is so trivial that no further enquiry is required.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a definite policy behind the allotment of positions in the photograph and that it is to stress the inferiority of the Indian delegates attending the conference, and yet my Honourable friend calls it a storm in a tea cup?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am not aware.

Sardar Sant Singh: Everybody who saw this photograph remarked to this effect and they did not like it.

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

RISE IN PRICE OF COTTON IN INDIA AND AMERICA

129. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) what at present is the percentage gain over the August, 1939, price to the cotton cultivator in India and the United States of America;

(b) the percentage increase in the price of Indian cotton cloth over the price in August, 1939; and

(c) the index of the cost of living, assuming the index of 1939 equal to 100, in India as well as in the United States of America?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) For the purpose of the comparison desired by the Honourable Member I have taken the percentage increase since August 1939, in the prices of Medium Staple Indian cotton and American Middling. The increase in the Indian cotton price has been 115 per cent., and in the case of the American cotton 141 per cent.

(b) The percentage increase in the price of Indian cotton cloth in October 1944 as against August 1939 was 161 per cent.

(c) The cost of living index in the U. S. A. in April 1944 was 26 per cent. over the index in 1939. No all-India cost of living index numbers are maintained, but an averaging out of the cost of living indices for big cities in India shows that the increase over the 1939 figure has been about 182 per cent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps do Government propose to take to see that the cotton cultivator gets at least as much as is justified by the rise in the index number of prices and also by a fall in the value of money due to inflation caused by the Honourable the Finance Member?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is very difficult to answer this in reply to a supplementary question. I can assure my Honourable friend that we have taken all possible steps to guarantee a minimum price for the cotton cultivator.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What steps do Government propose to take to reduce the all-India cost of living index number which stands at about 182 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as my Department is concerned, we have taken all possible steps for the last 18 months to bring down the prices. Today, the fact that it is 161 per cent. as against 395 in the middle of

June, 1943, is largely due to control measures which we have taken in the Department.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am referring to the cost of living index number which is 182 per cent.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The administrative responsibility for all these things depends upon other Departments to whom my Honourable friend must address this question. But so far as the Industries and Civil Supplies Department is concerned, I have answered that we have taken considerable steps to bring down the price.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will my Honourable friend make enquiries and find out if any other measures are necessary to bring down the cost of living index numbers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As far as I am aware, quite a considerable measure has been taken, as a result of which the price of rice which was ranging between Rs. 30 and Rs. 25 last year has come down to between Rs. 10 and 7 this year in the part of the country affected by famine.

INDIANS SHOT IN POLICE FIRING IN MAURITIUS

130. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state with reference to his answer to my starred question No. 241, given on the 17th November, 1943, in connection with 'Indians shot in Police firing in Mauritius', if the report of the Commission of Enquiry referred to in the answer has now been received? If so, will it be placed on the table? If not, why not?

(b) What is the summary of the report?

(c) Have the Government considered the advisability of appointing an Indian who will be on the spot to look after the interest of Indians as suggested by me in one of the supplementary questions?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). The Report has not yet been received but is expected to be published shortly.

(c) The question will be considered but I may say that at present there are four Indian inspectors of labour to look after the interests of the Indian labourers.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I remind the Honourable Member that the same answer was given last time when I put this question, namely that the report has not been received. Is there any explanation as to why there is so much delay in submitting the report?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: May I point out to my Honourable friend that the same situation still continues.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answers to Questions Nos. 131, 132 and 133 of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad will be laid on the table, as he has exhausted his quota.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I represent to you, Sir, that since the answers to these questions are laid on the table, the House is denied the opportunity of putting supplementary questions and may I therefore request you to allow supplementary questions to be put tomorrow after going through the answers laid on the table?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, no, that cannot be allowed under the rules.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

†131. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total quantity of import of foodgrains expected in the year 1944-45?

(b) What suggestions has the Food Department given for the production of rice whose import has been curtailed owing to the closing of the Rangoon Market?

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

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is not possible to state at present the total quantity of foodgrains expected to be received from overseas during the year 1944-45 as His Majesty's Government are reviewing the position in the month of November and it is not known yet what quantities will be shipped during the first quarter of 1945.

However, I may state for the information of the Honourable Member that 800,000 tons of foodgrains was promised to be shipped during the year ending the 30th of September, 1944, and a further 300,000 tons of wheat and wheat products has been promised for shipment during the last quarter of 1944.

(b) The 'Grow More Food Campaign' started by the Government of India in March, 1942, includes increased production of rice also. The following schemes have been sanctioned for the increased production of rice:

- (i) Distribution of improved seeds of paddy at concessional rates.
- (ii) Multiplication of improved strains of paddy seeds.
- (iii) Distribution of manures at concessional rates for manuring paddy fields.
- (iv) Reclamation of waste lands.
- (v) Construction irrigation works, e.g., wells tanks and tube wells.

The Government of India have allotted for paddy 30,000 tons of ammonium sulphate out of 65,000 tons which will be received in India during 1944-45. About 17,500 tons have been allotted to provinces and States from current stock against expected supplies for manuring the standing winter rice crops and subsidies have been promised by the Central Government for the distribution of ammonium sulphate at concessional rates for paddy. The Central Government have also given financial assistance to the Provinces in the forms of loans and grants for financing various food production schemes.

In addition to the above, steps have been taken to increase the quantities of rice available for consumption by restricting the overpolishing of rice in milling. A number of provinces and states have issued orders regarding undermilling of rice.

EXPENDITURE ON BUILDINGS IN DELHI

†132. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state how much money have the Government of India spent on buildings—permanent and temporary—in Delhi?

(b) How much was provided by (i) Loan, (ii) revenue, and (iii) by land and lease arrangements?

(c) What would happen to these buildings after the war?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The total cost of permanent and temporary, office and residential accommodation, constructed since 1939, is Rs. 6.38 crores.

(b) The information asked for is not readily available.

(c) Permanent buildings will be retained after the war. As regards temporary buildings, it is the intention of Government to demolish them as soon as practicable after the war, as and when the sites are required for the development of Delhi.

DEMOLITION OF TEMPORARY BUILDINGS.

†133. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Has the Honourable the Labour Member suggested to his Department that the buildings will be constructed in a manner that they may be pulled down soon after the war which will involve additional expenditure of the money?

(b) Are the Government contemplating to demolish temporary buildings? What would be the cost of demolition and what would be the manner in which these buildings will be pulled down?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No. The primary object of the buildings is to meet war requirements and they have been constructed in a manner and on sites most suitable to meet such requirements. This has involved in most cases temporary construction on sites which will be required for other purposes after the war. The actual order of demolition of the buildings must

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

depend on the programme laid down for the utilisation of the sites and the development of Delhi.

(b) Yes. It is not possible at present to estimate the cost of demolition and to lay down the manner in which the buildings will be pulled down.

SUICIDE BY A STUDENT OF THE LADY HARDINGE COLLEGE, DELHI.

134. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands been drawn to a report in the *Sind Observer*, dated the 9th September, 1944, that Miss Prakash Khurana, a fifth year student of the Lady Hardinge College was found dead in her room in the College hostel? If so, what was the cause of the suicide?

(b) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the fact that there is a lack of supervision and check on the girl students?

(c) Is it not a fact that the girls are freely allowed to go about outside the college without any attendant?

(d) Is it a fact that the girls go for evening walks and return too late when the compound doors are closed and they secretly jump over the compound walls?

(e) Is it a fact that there is a restaurant within the college premises where even outsiders go even at late hours?

(f) Since how long does the present Lady Principal and the manageress of the college hold her post, and what arrangement has she made to guard against the above mentioned evasions?

(g) Is there any Committee in existence connected with the management of the affairs in the college? If so, who are they, and how many meetings of such a Committee took place during this year and the last?

(h) What steps do Government propose to take for a better supervision and check?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes. * In recording a finding that death was by suicide. The Magistrate has assigned no reason: but letters left by the deceased indicate that she thought she was going mad.

(b) No.

(c) Between 4 P.M. and 8 P.M. the students are allowed outside the College without any attendant.

(d) and (e). No.

(f) The present Principal has held office since November 1943 and the Warden (Manageress) from December, 1936. There is a wire fencing all round and Durwans on watch on the closed door at the gates. It is not considered possible for the students to enter the College premises after the closing hour without the knowledge of the authorities.

(g) The management of the College is entrusted to the Governing Body and the Executive Committee of the College and Hospital. Ordinarily the former meets twice a year and latter once in two months. The Governing Body met twice during 1943 and so far it has met once in 1944. The Executive Committee held seven meetings during 1943 and seven meetings so far during 1944. A list showing the composition of these two bodies is laid on the table of the House.

(h) Government have no reason to believe that supervision is not adequate.

Composition of the Governing Body of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, New Delhi

President

The Director General, Indian Medical Service, (Lt.-General J. B. Hance, C.I.E., O.B.E., K.H.S., I.M.S., till 10th August 1944 and Major-General W. C. Paton, M.C., K.H.P., I.M.S., from 11th August 1944).

Members

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, (Mr. A. V. Askwith, C.I.E., I.C.S.).

The Chief Engineer, Delhi, (Mr. A. W. H. Dean, C.I.E., M.C., E.D.).

The Educational Commissioner with the Government of India (Mr. John Sergeant, C.I.E.).

The Chief Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service (Dr. H. M. Lazarus, W.M.S.).

A representative elected by the members of the All-India Association of Medical Women. (Dr. J. R. Dadabhoy, Bombay).

The Surgeon to H. E. the Viceroy, (Lt.-Colonel H. Williamson, O.B.E., I.M.S. (Retd.).

Six members nominated by the Government of India, as follows:

2 members of the Legislative Assembly—

(1) Sir Syed Raza Ali, C.B.E., M.L.A.

(2) Sardar Sant Singh, M.L.A.

One member of the Council of State:

The Honourable Mr. P. N. Saprú.

One prominent Indian lady of Delhi:

Mrs. H Sen, Principal, Lady Irwin College, New Delhi.

One prominent Indian gentleman of Delhi:

Rai Bahadur Ram Kishore, Advocate.

One local Medical Officer:

(The Chief Medical Officer, Delhi. Lt.-Col R. McRobert, I.M.S.).

A prominent businessman of Delhi:

Mr. L. W. Woodward, Agent, Imperial Bank of India, Delhi.

Honorary Secretary

The Deputy Director General, Indian Medical Service (Col. S.-L. Bhatia, M.C., I.M.S.).

Honorary Treasurer

An officer nominated by the Government of India: (Mr. M. Hashim, M.A., LL.B., Joint Financial Adviser, Supply Finance, New Delhi).

Composition of the Executive Committee of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital.

Chairman

The Educational Commissioner with the Government of India (Mr. John Sargent, C.I.E.).

Members

Rai Bahadur Ram Kishore, Advocate, Delhi.

The Chief Medical Officer, Delhi. (Lt.-Colonel R. McRobert).

The Chief Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service (Lt.-Colonel H. M. Lazarus, W.M.S.).

The Honorary Secretary to the Governing Body (Colonel S. L. Bhatia, M.C., I.M.S.).

The Honorary Treasurer to the Governing Body (M. Hashim, Esq., M.A., LL.B., Joint Financial Adviser, Supply Finance).

Mr. L. W. Woodward, Agent, Imperial Bank of India, Delhi.

Secretary

Dr. R. E. R. Mitton, W.M.S., Principal, Lady Hardinge Medical College.

In the absence of the Chairman, the members present shall elect one of their number to be Chairman.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are there any Members of this House on these Committees which the Honourable Member mentioned?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There are two Members of this House on the Governing Body.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are there any indications that before this girl's death, she was administered a rebuke?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir, a Member of the staff had noticed that she had become very inattentive to her lectures and in her duties and she asked one of her colleagues on the staff to get into touch with the girl privately and discreetly and try to find out if there was something in the matter. Unfortunately the girl kept very much to herself for the two or three days after this was noticed and then she committed suicide before the lady who was asked to find out was able to make touch with her.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Was any post mortem held?

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

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Was the condition of the girl communicated to her parents or guardian before she died?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There was nothing very definite to communicate. She was inattentive at her lectures and classes but there was nothing to communicate at that stage.

ACCOMMODATION CONSTRUCTED IN DELHI AND NEW DELHI

†135. ***Sir F. E. James:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) for how many officers and staff (i) office, and (ii) residential accommodation has been constructed in Delhi and New Delhi by the Central Public Works Department since the beginning of the War;

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

- (b) the total cost of (i) the temporary, and (ii) the permanent accommodation so erected;
- (c) what temporary office and residential accommodation is now under construction and at what estimated cost;
- (d) whether any further temporary construction is under consideration, and, if so, for what purpose; and
- (e) what plans are being made for the removal of the temporary constructions after the war, and for the disposal and utilisation of the materials employed in their erection?

The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar: (a) Since the beginning of the war the construction of office accommodation to the extent of 12,24,516 sq. ft. and roofed residential accommodation for 969 officers and 745 clerks has been completed. These figures do not include accommodation provided for the Far Eastern Bureau of the British Ministry of Information, the South East Asia Command and the U. S. A. Forces. Information regarding the number of officers and staff for whom the office accommodation has been constructed is not readily available.

(b) The total costs of office and residential accommodation, constructed since 1939, are (i) Rs. 5.29 crores for temporary accommodation and (ii) Rs. 1.09 crores for permanent accommodation.

(c) A statement containing the required information and also information regarding permanent accommodation under construction is placed on the table of the House.

(d) No further proposal has as yet been approved.

(e) It has been decided to remove the temporary buildings as soon as possible after the War. The question of the disposal and utilisation of the materials is under consideration.

Statement of temporary and permanent office and residential accommodation now under construction and their estimated cost.

Description of accommodation	Estimated cost Rs.
I.—Temporary—	
1. Additional residential accommodation for G. H. Q. Signals Officers	Not readily available
2. 1000 Single Clerks Quarters at Kitchener Road	23,41,000
3. Accommodation for 367 clerks at Asmara and Masawa Lines. (by alteration of existing temporary buildings)	1,62,000
4. 68 married clerks' and 224 single clerks' quarters in Tibbia College, Hostel compound	21,00,000
5. Accommodation for 200 single officers in existing Government Hostels	7,80,000
6. Hostel for 160 married officers on King Edward Road	Not readily available
7. Office accommodation of 3,05,043 sq. ft.	39,85,659
I—Permanent—	
50 'D' type and 168 'E' type clerks' quarters on Railway land near Minto Road	23,67,386
2 2,468 clerks quarters on Lodhi Road	2,94,00,000
3. 228 married clerks' quarters in 12 acres of land in Karol Bagh	32,00,000
4. 8 'E' type clerks' quarters in Aram Bagh	80,000
5. Three-storeyed flats for 120 clerks on Chitra Gupta Road	15,00,000

RECONDITIONING OF BOATS REMOVED FROM COASTAL AREAS OF BENGAL UNDER DENIAL POLICY

136. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to refer to the statement made by the Director-General of Food in the Council of State on the 16th March last, in connection with the scheme of the Bengal Government of reconditioning boats which were removed from the coastal areas of Bengal under the Denial Policy, which had, according to him, "very considerably affected trade movements in that areas", and that the Bengal Government had taken in hand repairs of about 10,000 of these boats, and also that these boats were expected to be ready before the rains this year, and state:

(a) the total number of boats that had either been removed or destroyed in the coastal areas of Bengal under the Denial policy;

(b) how many out of the above number have been reconditioned, repaired and made available to the people concerned before the rains this year; and

(c) how many other boats are under repairs or construction at present and when they are likely to be made available to the people concerned?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is possible to give precise figures only in respect of those boats which were surrendered at the various reception centres. That number is 26,935.

(b) Of this number 5,984 have been made available to the civil population.

(c) The Government of Bengal have sanctioned construction programme for 10,000 boats of which, they hope, that 5,000 will be ready by the end of the present year.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With reference to part (b), may I know how many of these boats were actually returned before the rains, as was promised by the Central Government in the other House?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I shall require notice of that specific point.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is it a fact that very few boats were actually reconditioned before the rains?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: All we can say is that every step was taken to recondition boats but the reconditioning of so many thousands of boats must necessarily take time. But if my Honourable friend wants a specific date I must ask for notice.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member find out, when he makes an inquiry, the exact reasons that stood in the way of the Government of Bengal in fulfilling the promise given by the Central Government in this behalf?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir, I will.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were any steps taken by the Central Government to pay any compensatory allowances to these people who were left unemployed because of their boats being compulsorily taken away by Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: In every case where boats were surrendered at the reception centre, compensation was paid.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did that compensation cover only the cost of the boat taken away or the loss of employment caused by the confiscation of the boat?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have no figures to analyse that, but all we can say is that the amount which was paid was more than the price which was usually available.

STEPS FOR REDUCING SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE.

137. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) what steps the Government of India have taken in order to reduce the number of cattle slaughtered in this country;

(b) the nature of steps taken by the Government of India in order to see that prime cattle, such as those below the age of 10 years, or milch cattle and pregnant cattle are not slaughtered; and

(c) whether the Government of India have satisfied themselves that the Provincial Governments, Army authorities and military and other contractors have scrupulously followed the instructions of the Government of India in regard to the slaughter of cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). A copy of the press note issued on 26th July 1944, narrating the steps taken by Government is laid on the table.

(c) Six provinces, *vis.*, Madras Bombay, Bihar, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Assam have issued orders under the Defence of India Rules prohibiting the slaughter of useful cattle; the others have the matter under their consideration. The military authorities have issued orders to various commands prescribing the categories of cattle which may not be purchased for slaughter. Inspections are being carried out from time to time to see that the instructions are complied with.

No. F. 24/14/44-PUB.

Dated 26th July 1944.

Restrictions on Cattle Slaughter on lines adopted by Army Authorities.

Restrictions on the slaughter of cattle for civilian purposes, on the lines already adopted by the army authorities, and the prescribing of meatless days each week have been recommended by the Government of India in a circular to all Provincial Governments. The aim is to preserve the cattle wealth of the country, particularly working cattle, cows in milk or pregnant, and young stock.

The army authorities have agreed to prohibit the slaughter, or sale for slaughter, of (1) cattle below three years of age, (2) male cattle between 3 and 10 years which can be used for work, (3) all cows between 3 and 10 years which are capable of producing milk, excepting those which are unsuitable for breeding and (4) all cows which are pregnant or in milk. Any civil veterinary authority can object to the slaughter of a particular animal, and for this purpose has the right of access to the military butchery pens. The military authorities fix minimum prices for all purchases after consultation with the local Purchase Committees on which both military and civil authorities are represented.

The Government of India have requested all Provincial Governments to take early action in this matter, either by issuing similar orders or by modifying existing orders on these lines. It is understood that certain restrictions on the slaughter of cattle for civilian consumption are already in force in the Provinces of Madras, Bombay, the U. P., the C. P., Bihar and Assam, while Bengal and Assam have fixed certain days in the week as meatless days.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member find out the reason, if that is possible, why the Government of Bengal have taken such a long time to come to a decision on this matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think I can tell the Honourable Member the reason that has been given. The Government of Bengal have approached it in rather a different way and they imposed either one or two meatless days a week; and they wanted to see whether that would have the desired effect instead of issuing an order in the terms suggested to them by us. And I understand that this cause has had, according to their figures, a considerable effect.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is it a fact that in spite of the meatless days proposed by the Government of Bengal, the proportion of cattle slaughtered in Bengal is about the highest among all the provinces of India so far?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It used to be so before; I cannot say whether it is now.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that more cattle are slaughtered in India than are born by natural causes and that if this process continues the 'Grow More Food' campaign might actually become 'Grow Less Food'?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware that more are being slaughtered than are being born by natural processes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: On what basis is the Honourable Member giving this information to the House that more are not slaughtered? Will he produce figures before this House either now or in the course of the food debate or at any time during this Session to show that the number of cattle that are born by natural processes is more than the number slaughtered, not only in the civil slaughter houses but also by the military and by contractors and those which are going into ships? Will Government take some reasonable steps to avoid the catastrophe that is lurking behind this process?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will examine the point raised in this rather long question when I see the manuscript.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of either importing cattle into this country to be consumed by the army or request the army to reduce the slaughter and consumption of cattle and beef?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot speak for the army but I believe both processes are going on. I believe they are importing a considerable quantity of meat and also making arrangements for cold storage, and they have also cut down their requirements of meat.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it impossible for the Government of India to press the army to reduce their consumption of beef in this country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Because the consumption of meat in the army is infinitesimal as compared with other slaughter and deaths from natural causes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government satisfied that the consumption of beef by the army is absolutely the minimum?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is very difficult for my Department to answer.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are Government aware of any processes other than natural by which cattle can be born?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The question should be addressed to the Honourable Member who raised that point.

RISE IN PRICES OF MILCH AND FARM CATTLE.

138. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of milch and farm cattle have gone up by 300 to 400 per cent. in various parts of India as compared with the pre-war prices;

(b) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to ensure that farmers are able to purchase milch and farm cattle at prices within their means; and

(c) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to see that the Army authorities or the slaughter houses do not offer high prices in order to unduly induce the farmers and the cattle-owners to part with their cattle for slaughter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No reliable figures are available but it is probably correct that prices of livestock have increased in sympathy with the general trend of prices and in excess of that trend in some areas.

(b) It is not considered practicable to control the price of cattle but the Government of India have indicated to Provincial Governments the lines on which cultivators should be advised to conserve their livestock and to increase good breeding stock.

(c) The military authorities have agreed to fix maximum prices for all purchases after consultation with the local Purchase Committees on which both military and civil authorities are represented.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Arising out of part (d), will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate the nature of the instructions which they have sent down to the Provincial Governments?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is rather long.

CREATION OF CENTRAL TECHNICAL POWER BOARD.

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

(a) whether Government have any plans for the creation of a Central Technical Power Board;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chairmanship of this Board has been offered to a former employee of the British Firm of Messrs. Merz and Mclellan, and that one of the two seats on the Board has been filled by an American Engineer;

(c) whether his attention has been drawn to reports that Government are considering the appointment of Messrs. Merz and Mclellan, and the American Bond and Share Company as consulting engineers; and, if so, whether they are true;

(d) whether these two American and British firms, respectively, have acquired any interest in the erection or operation of electrical undertakings in India so far, and what they are;

(e) whether it is a fact that a Committee of leading Power Engineers appointed by Government early this year have reported that India would require electrical plant to the value of Rs. 400 crores, and that Government have accepted this recommendation; and

(f) whether Government would publish full details of the recommendations of the above-mentioned Committee?

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

(b) Yes, but in the case of the former he has for the last three years and nine months been in the service of the Government of India as Electrical Commissioner.

(c) Government have seen certain press reports to this effect but they are not correct as they have not yet taken into consideration the question of appointing consulting engineers.

(d) In so far as Messrs. Merz and McLellan are concerned, the reply is in the negative. Government, however, understand that the Electric Bond and Share Company of U. S. A. (and not the American Bond and Share Company) which is a holding company has substantial interest in the Tata Hydro Electric Agencies and the United Eastern Agencies who are Managing Agents for the electric supply undertakings at Karachi, Broach, Nasik-Deolali and Poona.

(e) No.

(f) Steps are being taken to publish the proceedings of the Conference.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: When may we expect to see these recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think in about a week's time.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With reference to part (e) of the question, can the Honourable Member give us some idea of the figure, if it is not 400 crores?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have not got the facts before me.

CONVICTION OF MR. PARTAP SINGH, MARKET INSPECTOR, NEW DELHI.

140. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is a fact that Mr. Partap Singh, Market Inspector, Health Department, New Delhi Municipal Committee, was convicted on the 12th August, 1944, under section 161, I. P. C. (Bribery), by the Resident Magistrate, New Delhi and was sentenced to eight months rigorous imprisonment? If so, what action was taken against the said Mr. Partap Singh by the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

(b) Are Government aware that Mr. Partap Singh is still under suspension and is in receipt of a subsistence allowance? If so, is it admissible under the Government Servants Conduct Rules to retain a hand after his conviction by a court of law? If the answer to the latter part of (b) be in the negative, why has the said Inspector been not so far removed from service?

(c) Is it a fact that the Resident Magistrate New Delhi, bitterly criticised in the course of his judgment the conduct of the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Captain Ram Dyal, as an interested party in the above-mentioned case of Mr. Partap Singh's conviction? If so, was this criticism the basis of Captain Ram Dyal's resignation, or did he resign for any other reasons?

(d) Are Government aware that efforts are being made to re-employ the said Assistant Medical Officer of Health in the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes. He was placed under suspension pending decision on his appeal.

(b) Mr. Partap Singh is still under suspension but he has not been paid any subsistence allowance since the date of his conviction.

(c) The convicting Magistrate criticised the evidence of Captain Ram Dayal as a defence witness in the case. Captain Ram Dayal resigned on grounds of ill health.

(d) No.

I should perhaps say in continuation that since this answer was drafted Mr. Partap Singh has been acquitted by the appellate court.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN POSTS IN HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

141. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please lay on the table a statement showing the communal composition of the following posts in the Health Department of the New Delhi Municipal Committee:—

- (i) Assistant Medical Officer of Health,
- (ii) Anti-Malaria Officer,
- (iii) School Medical Officer,
- (iv) Chief Sanitary Inspector,
- (v) Superintendent, Vaccination.

- (vi) Head Clerk,
 (vii) Municipal Building Inspector,
 (viii) Sanitary Inspector, and
 (ix) Clerks.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: A statement giving the communal composition of the posts referred to is laid on the table.

Statement giving the communal composition of the posts in the Health Department of the New Delhi Municipal Committee

Particulars of posts	Strength	Hindus	Moham- madans	Sikhs	Chris- tians	Sche- duled castes	Vacant
Assistant MOH.	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Anti-Malaria Officer	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
School Medical Officers	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
Ch. Sanitary Inspector	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Supdt. Vaccination	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Head Clerk	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Mun. Building Inspector	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Sanitary Inspectors	7	4	1	1	1	..	..
Clerks	6	5	1	..	..	..	..
Total	21	16	2	1	1	..	1

POSTS OF HEAD CLERK IN NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

142. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the total number of posts in the cadre of Head Clerk in the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

(b) Are the holders of the posts of Head Clerk liable to inter-branch transfers?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Five.

(b) Yes.

RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS APPOINTED IN FOOD DEPARTMENT.

143. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to make a statement giving the number of retired military officers who have been given appointments in the Food Department, the appointments held by them at the time of retirement, and the appointments that they hold now, together with their past and present salaries?

(b) What special qualification or experience make them particularly suitable for the posts to which they have been appointed in the Food Department?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) They had given proof of administrative capacity in staff and command posts and had special experience in handling problems of supply.

Statement showing the retired military officers employed in the Food Department

f.No.	Name	Appointment held at the time of retirement	Post held in the Food Department	Past Salary per month	Present Salary per month
1	Lt. General Sir Clarence A. Bird, K. C. I. E., C. B., D. & O. (Rtd.).	Master General of Ordnance in India.	Regional Food Commissioner, Punjab Region.	Rs. 4,000 p.m.	Rs. 4,000 including car allowance less pension* drawn.
2	Lt. Col. G. B. Nokes, R. I. A. S. C. (Rtd.).	Officer Commanding 'A' Supply Department, Ferozapore.	Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Bombay Region.	Rs. 2,180 (including allowances).	Rs. 800 as pay + Rs. 100 as Bombay Compensatory allowance exclusive of pension of Rs. 825-8 p.m.

* (£1,280 per annum.)

Mr. K. O. Neogy: What is the total number?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Two.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the names of the posts to which they have been appointed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Regional Food Commissioner, Punjab, and Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Bombay.

PAPER STOCK AND PAPER ECONOMY MEASURES.

144. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the stock of paper in the hands of Government on the date when the paper control was introduced?

(b) What steps were taken by Government to effect economy in the consumption of paper by Government Departments including the Defence Department?

(c) What measure of success has been achieved in making such economy?

(d) Can Government give any adequate reasons why further economies in the use of paper by Government Departments is not possible, as suggested in all directions from the public?

(e) Is it a fact that Government have not exerted themselves and, in any case, have not succeeded in securing shipping space for paper to an appreciable extent either before or immediately after they instituted the paper control?

(f) What measures were taken to increase the import of paper pulp, newsprint and other kinds of paper, respectively?

(g) What imports have been received, and what further imports are expected?

(h) Would Government consider the relaxation of the thirty per cent. basic ration given to the public in the consumption of paper, and, if so, by what method, and in what direction?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) All-India figures are not available. The stock in the Central Stationery Office and the Government of India presses would be 2,500 tons approximately. This represents less than two months' consumption. The collection of figures from all Central Government offices and Provincial Governments, etc., will involve a good deal of labour and time which will not be commensurate with the result to be achieved.

(b) A statement of description of the measures is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Government have been able to reduce their requirement from 90 per cent. of the Indian production reserved between October 1942 to March 1943 to 70 per cent. since April 1943 and 65 per cent. between October and December 1944. Enforcement of paper economy measures has in many cases resulted in reduction of paper consumption by 50 per cent. Two statements showing approximate savings effected during 1942 and 1943 are laid on the table of the House. They are not exhaustive and leave out several items for which savings effected were not recorded.

(d) Further economy may be possible and the matter is under the constant review of Government. All suggestions received by the Government of India are carefully considered and adopted wherever possible.

(e) No.

(f) and (g). It is not in the public interest to disclose this information. Government have constantly been endeavouring to obtain increased imports of woodpulp, newsprint and other kinds of paper. Considerable quantities of these articles have been received during the first 9 months of 1944 and further quantities are expected. Comparison shows that quantities imported during the present year were larger than those imported in the last year.

(h) Yes, when supply position justifies this action. The method and direction will depend on the circumstances existing at the time.

Statement

Labour Department have been alive to the necessity of securing the utmost economy in the consumption of paper for some considerable time. With this end in view the Controller of

Printing and Stationery was declared Paper Economy Officer and *ex-officio* Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in June 1940. In 1942, on the recommendation of the W. B. C. C. the paper economy staff of the Controller was strengthened by the appointment of four Inspectors of Stationery, who were stationed at Delhi (2) Calcutta (1) and Bombay (1). The duties of these Inspectors are to see that the various paper economy instructions issued from time to time are strictly adopted in various Departments and offices of the Government of India throughout India. A Paper Economy Officer and an Assistant Paper Economy Officer have also been appointed to inspect G. H. Q. and units and formations of Defence Services in India with the same purpose in view.

2. Every possible device to secure economy in the consumption of paper is being adopted. The action taken is summarised briefly below.

I. General instructions have been issued from time to time suggesting the ways and means to achieve the maximum economy in the consumption of paper. More important of such instructions are :

- (a) utilize both sides of note sheets and other paper;
 - (b) type in single spacing;
 - (c) use of economy slips on envelopes;
 - (d) correct way of cutting stencils keeping in view the paper economy factor;
- etc., etc.

II. Economy in the use of paper is also achieved by :

- (a) discontinuance of the printing of publications which are not directly connected with war efforts;
- (b) printing instead of duplicating, where number of copies required is hundred and more;
- (c) discontinuance of forms which are not essential and reducing the sizes of others to the barest minimum.

III. Eliminating the demands for new paper by :

- (a) the use of blank spaces in obsolete forms and blank pages in the old records which mature for destruction;
- (b) use of slates for rough work;
- (c) discontinuance of the supply of slip blocks;
- (d) imposing the following cuts on demands for paper and paper items;

Description	Percentage cut imposed Per cent.
Writing paper including note sheets, draft forms, etc.	50
Blotting paper	33½
Envelopes (smaller size)	75
Envelopes (bigger size)	50
Overall cut on all Government demands for Paper and articles made of paper during 1944-45	20

A copy of the *pamphlet containing extracts of important Government orders on paper economy and a *card (*Copy placed in the Library of the House) containing paper economy points meant for heads of departments are enclosed. Important paper economy instructions have also been brought to the notice of Provincial Governments for similar action.

3. The total paper production of India was estimated during 1943-44 at one lakh tons per annum. As the requirements of Government were estimated at 70,000 tons, 70 per cent. of the total Indian production was reserved for Government requirements. The supply of paper is made to the various Departments of the Central Government and the Provincial Governments against the quotas allotted to them by the Controller of Printing and Stationery, who reduces the quantity of paper indented for whenever he feels that, in view of certain paper economy instructions, reduction is called for.

Statement showing the approximate savings effected by the Paper economy campaign in 1942

	Rs.
1. Savings effected by curtailment of demands for paper in indents submitted by the Central Civil non-paying departments to the Central Stationery Office	1,40,100
2. Saving effected by reduction of sizes of several Defence Department's forms, dispensing with binding cloth and art canvas, and changing of binding style to cheaper style	1,79,800
3. Saving effected by restricting the issues of various standard forms	80,400
4. Saving effected by reducing the sizes of standard forms	87,800
5. Saving effected by discontinuing the printing of table calendars	2,400
6. Saving effected by the substitution of less expensive items in printing and binding of forms, publications and other miscellaneous items and by the use of old boards covers, etc., furnished by the departments and substitution of less expensive styles of binding, in the Government of India Presses	9,500
7. Savings in stores and stationery, forms etc., effected in Government of India Presses and Central Publication Branch	1,100
8. Savings effected by the use of assorted off-cuts in the Government of India Presses	10,000
9. Savings effected by the use of paper strips instead of envelopes in the Government of India Presses	100
Total	5,11,200

Statement showing the approximate savings effected by the Paper economy campaign in 1943.

	Ra.
1. Savings effected by curtailment of demands for paper in indents submitted by the Central Civil non-paying departments to the Central Stationery Office	2,73,445
2. Savings effected by recoveries of surplus stationery articles from various offices by the Inspectors of Stationery	12,884
3. Savings effected by reduction of sizes of Army forms, printing them on both sides of paper, dispensing with binding cloth and art canvas and changing of binding style to a cheaper one.	90,840
4. Savings effected by restricting the issues of various civil standard forms	89,132
5. Savings effected by revision of civil standard forms	31,331
6. Savings effected by discontinuing the printing of table calendars	2,500
7. Savings effected by substitution of less expensive items in printing and binding of forms, publications and other miscellaneous items and by the use of old boards, covers, etc., furnished by the departments and substitution of cheaper styles of binding in the Government of India Presses	41,028
8. Savings effected by the use of assorted off-cuts in the Government of India Presses	11,308
9. Savings effected in stores and Stationery, Forms, etc., effected in Government of India Presses and Central Publication Branch	7,535
10. Savings effected by the use of paper strips instead of envelopes in the Government of India Presses	747
Total	5,60,750

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PAPER ECONOMY POINTS

KEEP THESE PEPS ON YOUR TABLE AND SEE THAT EVERYBODY IN YOUR DEPARTMENT OBSERVES THESE TWELVE POINTS

1. You are personally responsible for paper economy in your department. Remember, your subordinates will follow your example.
2. Do not forget the back of any sheet you touch. Use both sides. Do not waste space on a sheet.
3. Use salvaged paper blank on one side in preference to clean sheets.
4. Watch distribution of circular letters, memos., etc. Faulty distribution is the most prolific source of paper wastage. Send your communications only to those who must have them and select these carefully every time. Don't treat distribution as a routine matter.
5. Having fixed the minimum number of copies necessary, don't rush to duplicating automatically. Think of printing first, unless copies required are less than 50. Printing is more legible and saves more paper than duplicating.
6. Before signing a stencil, see that it is cut according to economy instructions to a F'cap Octavo (4" x 6½") size where possible and that it bears an imprint indicating number of copies and the date, e.g., "35-5-3-44".
7. For noting and U. O. correspondence, use a full-sized sheet, but for official correspondence, use the smallest size of paper necessary, typing on both sides.
8. Wherever possible, type enclosures on the backs of the fair copies of your letters instead of on separate sheets.
9. Keep the office copy of replies on the backs of original letters wherever possible.
10. Use economy labels for all non-confidential letters and see that the flaps are not gummed or sealed.
11. Use blotters sparingly. See that your blotting sheet is not changed without your orders.
12. Attend to paper economy in each file you handle. Record invariably on each any violation of paper economy instructions so that others using the file will notice your comment.

SAVE PAPER.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether Government have succeeded in implementing the assurance given by Sir Akbar Hydari that Government will take active steps to speed up the delivery of raw materials and of coal to the local paper manufacturing mills in India in order that the position may be made easy?

The Honourable Sir M. Azimul Huque: Certainly.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Do I understand that Government are prepared to consider further steps for effecting paper economy and to receive suggestions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, the question is constantly before Government and not only in one Department of Government but in all the various Departments.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Would Government consider the possibility of printing Assembly papers on both sides instead of on one side as at present?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If there is matter enough for both sides.

PROTECTION TO WAR INDUSTRIES.

145. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have, through the Commerce Member, since the beginning of the war, given repeated assurances to industries which have come into existence on account of and during the war, for tariff protection against cheap imports from abroad after the war?

(b) Apart from general assurances, have Government conveyed such assurances, in writing, to any concerns? If so, which are the concerns, and what is the nature of such assurances?

(c) Is it the intention of Government to hold on to this declared policy of protecting such industries, or, as is apprehended in certain quarters, to change it?

(d) What steps are Government taking to implement their assurances in this regard?

(e) What are the industries which would be covered within the scope of such assurances, and on what principle is the selection being made?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have assured some specified industries, the starting of which was considered essential under conditions created by the war, that they would be given such measure of protection against unfair competition from outside India after the war as may be necessary to enable them to continue their existence provided that they are conducted on sound business lines.

(b) No. The assurance was given to some specified industries, not to any particular concern.

(c) There is no foundation for the alleged apprehension anywhere that Government proposed to change their policy.

(d) The time for implementing the assurances has not yet arrived.

(e) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the speech made in this House on the 6th November, 1940, by the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, then Commerce Member. The industries, to which an assurance has been given through Resolutions issued by Government from time to time, include production of bichromates, steel pipes and tubes, aluminium, calcium chloride, calcium carbide and starch.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, Sir, whether when the Honourable Member said 'industries which were considered essential', the test of essentiality is not the fact that Government made extensive purchases and in some cases they purchased the entire output of certain factories, and whether this test would not establish the essentiality of an industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I have already answered that question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the test of essentiality?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have answered this question, namely, it is because they are considered essential for war purposes that Government give that encouragement and assurance.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The encouragement and assurance has taken the form of Government making purchases. Certain industries arose in this country under very great difficulties and I put it to the Honourable Member whether it is the policy of Government to permit industries, which have come into existence under very severe difficulties, to go down ultimately after the war, and to go down immediately by the cheap consumers' goods which they are putting on the market?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid my Honourable friend has put an involved question. If he wants a reply to his question regarding consumers' goods, I will answer separately. But quite apart from that, it is the policy of the Government of India to see that the industries, which have come into being whether for war purposes or for essential requirements in India, should continue to exist after the war.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: What are the specified industries which have received Government's assurance that they will be protected and looked after?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They are industries which produce bichromates, steel pipes and tubes, aluminium, calcium, chloride, calcium carbide, and starch.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Are they exhaustive?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They are exhaustive.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Government of India have come to lean very much upon the handloom weaving industry for the supply of cloth during these war times and also in view of the fact that the handloom weaving industry has rendered a handsome service to the Government as well as the public in these years of crisis, have Government given any assurance, and if they have not till now, will Government consider the advisability of giving an assurance to the handloom weaving industry that their interests in the post-war period will be adequately protected?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If my Honourable friend would have the patience to wait for a reply in answer to his question on this subject, I think it would be better.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it be favourable?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance to the House that the Regulation of Import Quotas has given any protection to the bichromate industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, in deciding the import quota, Government have taken into consideration the quantum available in the country.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am in a position to state that it is to the contrary. I want an assurance from the Honourable Member on the matter.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would like to know the facts.

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

EXAMINATION OF PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE AT VIRAMGAM DUE TO EXPORT CONTROL.

146. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state how many cases of (i) detection, (ii) confiscation, and (iii) prosecution, separately, have occurred ever since the system of examination of passengers going from British India via Viramgam was instituted in connection with export control?

(b) Is it a fact that all the Indian States have been asked to adopt the export control and that they have adopted it?

(c) In view of the hardship to passengers do Government propose to discontinue the examination of passengers' luggage at Viramgam?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) The maritime Indian States have been requested to adopt the British Indian export control regulations and have done so.

(c) While the Government of India fully realise the necessity for minimising the inconvenience caused to passengers, they regret that it is not possible to dispense with the examination of passengers' luggage for export control purposes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have received representations and whether they have seen the views expressed in the public press that extraordinary hardships are being caused to the passengers who are going through Viramgam and that the new arrangements made are particularly humiliating and inconvenient?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This examination of passengers' luggage at Viramgam for purely custom purposes is not a new thing; it has been going on for some years. I have seen one or two comments in the press, but unfortunately, from those comments I could not locate what the grievances are, but if my Honourable friend would give me a note on the subject I promise to look into the matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether Viramgam is not productive of any particular financial results and that it is causing irritation to an enormous mass of people who come in crowded trains these days, and very grave inconvenience to people who are travelling with families, with old men and women and children? May I know whether Government would not go into this question and see if they cannot relax the regulations altogether or at least improve the conveniences at the places where this examination is done?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite prepared to look into the question of improving the conveniences. After all our intention is to ensure that there is no smuggling going on but I am not prepared to agree to the cessation of the examination because my Honourable friend knows that it is along the coast lines not far distant that things are smuggled through.

“ASSOCIATION TRADING” PROPOSED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

147. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member been drawn to what is known as “association trading” proposed in the United Kingdom by which competition of individual manufacturers would be eliminated and goods produced for export would be sold through an association of the trade as a whole?

(b) Have Government realised that this would result in jockeying the prices against India?

(c) What steps have Government taken to safeguard the interests of the Indian producer, and to enable him to receive competitive goods from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world?

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

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: I understand Government are now notifying all and sundry in this country to give particulars of the machinery which they want and they are saying that priority will not be given unless you book now. May I know what steps Government are taking in order to see that Indian industrialists do not purchase at inflated and heavy prices in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The whole question is under consideration. Our Indian industrialists are not such fools as to be duped by any statement made from the other side.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that Government has sent out circulars to find what kind of machinery they require after the war and asking them to send their replies soon, otherwise they may be left out?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think my friend knows that detailed enquiries were made last November, if I mistake not and there were some inquiries at a later stage. That is quite a different thing to the question asked by my Honourable friend. That was on a governmental basis to know the total quantum of Indian requirements after the war so that the Government of India might help the industry in getting these things from abroad.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Whereas the United Kingdom is taking steps by what is known as the Association Trading to secure maximum prices for United Kingdom exports, are our Government taking steps to see that Indian purchases in the United Kingdom do not come at maximum inflated prices?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The whole question is under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member also concerned about the possibility of obtaining better prices for agricultural commodities and semi-manufactured commodities made out of agricultural commodities when they are exported to other countries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: After the war is over?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think it is too early to think about that but we are considering that question.

PURCHASES BY THE U. K. C. C. IN INDIA.

148. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the total volume of purchases by the U. K. C. C. in India for each year since they started work?

(b) Is it a fact that the U. K. C. C. purchases in India at controlled rates and sells at a heavy profit in outside markets?

(c) Have the Government of India represented to His Majesty's Government that a portion of the profits earned in this manner belonged to this country, and have they claimed any such portion?

(d) Do Government propose to represent to His Majesty's Government for a participation of these profits retrospectively and hereafter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Supplies valued at about 18 crores of Rupees have been purchased and despatched so far by the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation from India to various destinations.

(b) No, Sir. Of the total supplies despatched by the Corporation about 90 per cent. are for Russia, and these are understood to be made on a nett cost basis with no addition for overhead charges. The Government of India have no information that the Corporation has made heavy profits on other transactions.

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: If they have not made heavy profits, does my Honourable friend wish to convey that they have made no profits?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I was only answering his question whether they made heavy profits.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If they are not heavy profits they must have made some profits. Why is it that the Government of India have not asked for a share?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have tried to find out what the profits are.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the Government's conception of heavy profits?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is an issue which every man sizes up according to his own light.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation took the sugar in this country and sold it at eight times the value in Persia?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation enjoys monopoly interests in exporting these things to Russia and other countries, they can make these profits at the cost of India. Isn't it in the interests of India that the Government of India should see that they get a portion of any legitimate profits that this company makes at the cost of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: First of all, the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation except probably in the case of Russia is not a monopolist company.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation has a monopoly, has the Government of India fixed any profit which they can amass to themselves?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Except in the case of Russia the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation is one of the many purchasers abroad.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask the Honourable Member how the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation pays India for goods purchased for Russia?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Well, I should ask for notice of this question because it is difficult to answer offhand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the Government of India have not called upon the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation to pay income-tax on profits which they earn in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That question does not arise after what I have said.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will it be possible to arrange with the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation that it pays India in dollars for goods purchased for Russia?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that over this matter of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation there have been several representations. As a result I agreed to have a conference with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce at Bombay. We had that conference. All the questions which the Chamber wanted me to examine I have had them examined and there is no substantial difference on the points raised by them between ourselves.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: They have been locked into?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, we have been able to satisfy the members of the Chamber on almost every point.

COAL POSITION.

{149. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the figures of the export of coal from India two years before the war and during each of the years after the outbreak of the war?

(b) Is it a fact that Indian coal was exported to Greece and other destinations in the Mediterranean?

(c) Is it a fact that convoy ships were supplied with Indian coal for their fuel requirements?

(d) How much coal was exported on account of the military from India during each of the years of the war?

(e) How much additional demand for coal has arisen in the country after the war, and for what purposes?

(f) What has been the increase in the consumption of coal by the Railways?

(g) How many factories in India, since July last, have been compelled to close down on account of the coal shortage?

(h) Are there any factories or class of factories, which were asked to close down on the plea that they would not be given any more coal?

(i) Has the situation materially improved since the appointment of the Coal Controller? If so, in what way?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by my Honourable colleague the Supply Member on the 6th instant to question No. 120.

SPREAD OF CHOLERA, INFLUENZA AND MALARIA IN BENGAL, BIHAR, ETC.

150. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state how the Government proposes to account for the phenomenal rise in the virulence, spread and incidence of Cholera, Influenza and Malaria in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Vizagapatam and Malabar Districts of Madras since the beginning of this year?

(b) Is it not a fact that this increase in the incidence of these diseases is due to increasing mal-nutrition of the people?

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

(c) What steps have Government taken to rush adequate quantities of food, build up stores of food and distribute them among the starving and under-nourished people of these affected areas and thus minimise the sufferings and also untimely deaths of people?

(d) What steps do Government propose to prevent the further worsening of the situation, and also to prevent the recurrence of famine, epidemics due to malnutrition during 1945?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). It is not a fact that there has been an abnormal increase in 1944 in the incidence of the diseases mentioned in all the areas referred to. No information has been received of any undue prevalence of influenza in any of the areas. There has been a steady decline in the cholera incidence in Bengal since the beginning of the year and the figures are now and have for some months been, well below the normal. In Malabar there has been little cholera, the total number of deaths reported to date being about a hundred compared with over 25,000 in the first eight months of last year. There has been a severe cholera epidemic in North Bihar but in the last few weeks there has been a very considerable improvement and the reported mortality rate is now below the average. Cholera was abnormally prevalent in Orissa in the early part of the year but here again there has been considerable improvement. Malaria has been widely prevalent in epidemic form in recent months in Bengal and Bihar and parts of Orissa. As regards the cause of the incidence of these diseases their spread is favoured by malnutrition but epidemic conditions are also governed by other factors:

(c) and (d). There is no acute shortage of foodgrains in any part of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Shortages were reported from Malabar and Vizagapatam and are being met by the allocation of special quotas. The Provincial Governments concerned have made arrangements for procuring foodgrains. The Government of India have also allotted foodgrains made available by surplus provinces or received from abroad under what is known as the Basic Plan and have endeavoured, in consultation with the War Transport Department, to secure that the surpluses so allotted are despatched to their destinations at a high priority and with the least possible delay. These measures will be continued during 1945. The total quantity already despatched to these areas is 590,572 tons and further allocations of over 800,000 tons have been made and await despatch.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the idea of the Government by saying adequate quantities are being supplied to these people in order to prevent malnutrition and even starvation that the rations granted to the rural folk in Vizagapatam district are to be reduced from 20 to 10 tolas, whereas the town people are being granted 40 tolas per day per head?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not quite follow the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Isn't it a fact that in Vizagapatam district during this month the rations granted to the people in the rural areas of the district have been reduced by 50 per cent., i.e., from 20 to 10 tolas, even while these 20 tolas is 50 per cent. of the rations granted to the people in towns.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am sorry I cannot reply to the question. Rationing is not the business of my Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps do Government wish to take to satisfy themselves that the people in this area are not doomed to under-nourishment and semi-starvation and therefore mal-nutrition which favours the spread of these contagious diseases?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Partly, Sir, we will try to grow more foodgrains there or near-by. As regards rationing and supply of food, I shall have to refer my Honourable friend to the appropriate Department.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Has the Honourable Member seen to-days *Hindustan Times* which reports that there are 10,000 deaths in Gorakhpur district in the United Provinces and these are due mostly to bad nourishment that the people get?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I saw the paragraph in the newspaper to which my Honourable friend referred. The present question however deals with shortage of foodgrains in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Malabar and Vizagapatam.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India received any representation from the Bihar Government for supplies of foodgrains from the Central Storage?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I must again refer my Honourable friend to the Honourable the Food Member.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: In part (c) of the question, the Honourable Member who put it wanted to know about the adequacy of the quantities of food supplied to these suffering people. I should like to know from the Honourable Member who has replied to the question as to whether food other than foodgrains was rushed to those areas on behalf of Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I cannot answer that but perhaps if it is raised in the current food debate the Food Member may be able to reply.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I hope "food" is not interpreted to mean only "food grains" in the Government of India Secretariat.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

CONFERENCE FOR EQUITABLE PRICE FIXATION.

151. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if the Government are prepared to convene a conference of the representatives of Provincial Governments, Provincial Food Councils and peasants, especially foodgrain producers and millers in order to work out a more equitable system of price fixation so that only producers and consumers will be benefited?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Government of India do not consider it necessary to convene a Conference of the type proposed by the Honourable Member. In formulating their price policy, the Government of India are advised by a Price Advisory Committee, which consists of the representatives of producers, consumers and the trade. Provincial Governments are also consulted.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION.

152. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state, in reference to the Labour Department's letter No. L. 1882, dated the 3rd March, 1942 in which Mr. M. N. Roy's scheme for propaganda on the Labour Front, costing Rs. 13,000 per mensem was approved:

(a) whether Government have satisfied themselves that the said moneys have been spent according to the scheme;

(b) whether they have received any reports from Mr. M. N. Roy or his Labour Organisation on the manner of their utilisation;

(c) whether Government have drawn any conclusions upon their work and reports, if so, what they are, and whether they will be placed on the table of the House;

(d) whether there is any audit, and, if so, by whom;

(e) whether the audit report at least be placed on the table of the House;

(f) whether similar subsidies are being granted to any other individuals or organisations; if so, what they are, and what sums are being thus granted, and with what effects; and

(g) whether Government propose to continue these grants; and

(h) whether these grants are grants-in-aid, and, if so, on what basis?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (d) of question No. 31 put by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.

(b) Yes.

(c) As already stated in reply to an earlier question, Government is satisfied that it has received adequate value for the money spent. The monthly grant is spent on the publication of printed literature, oral propaganda, visual publicity and the dissemination of reassuring news.

(d) and (e). This expenditure like all other expenditure is subject to Government audit and any comments made will appear in the Audit Report.

(f) No.

(g) Yes, it is the intention to continue for the present the grant made to the Federation.

(h) They are not grants-in-aid but represent payment for certain work carried out by the Association at Government's request.

INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS CHARTER AND INDIAN SEAMEN.

153. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Commerce Member aware of the existence of the International Seafarers Charter? If so, does he realize the gap between the conditions demanded by the Charter and those existing for Indian Seamen was enormous?

(b) Is the Government of India prepared to ratify the conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation Conference together with the Philadelphia Declaration?

(c) What is the basic wage of the Indian dock hand today? What is the basic pay per month recommended by the Charter?

(d) Are Government aware that Indian seamen do not enjoy the same treatment as white seamen regarding war bonus? If so, how do the Government of India propose to make good the difference?

(e) Is it not a fact that Indian seamen are grossly under-paid as compared with White seamen?

(f) Is it not a fact that necessary training for the job is denied to Indian seamen? If so, when is this glaring injustice to be remedied?

(g) Are Government aware that there is a tacit agreement between shipping employers in Bombay and Calcutta to bar Indians who might prove as efficient as European seamen?

(h) Is it not a fact that the cost of living in India to-day is not far below that in Glasgow and Liverpool or London?

(i) Is it not a fact that Indian seamen perform most of their service outside India?

(j) Is it not a fact that the case of the Indian seamen is under active consideration? If so, how long is this going to last?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul-Huque: (a) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the recent twenty-sixth Session of the International Labour Conference held at Philadelphia. The Conference did not adopt any Conventions. As regards the Recommendations adopted, the Government of India have not yet come to any decision what action will be taken on any of them, except that the proceedings of the Conference will be placed on the table of the Legislature in its next Session.

As regards the "Declaration concerning the aims and purposes of the I.L.O." known as the Philadelphia Declaration or Charter, no question of ratification arises. The delegates of the Government of India voted in favour of the Declaration.

(c) I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the required information. The second part of the question does not arise in view of my reply to part (a).

(d) So far as the inequality in war bonus is concerned, the position is as stated by the Honourable Member. The question of an increase in war bonus is under negotiation between Shipowners and Indian Seamen's representatives.

(e) The wages of Indian Seamen are lower than those of corresponding ranks of British Seamen.

(f) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to facilities for training on board the ship. If this is so, Government have no information on the point.

(g) The Government of India are not aware of any such agreement.

(h) No.

(i) Yes.

(j) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the wages of Indian seamen. His attention is invited to the answer to part (d).

Statement showing the present basic wages of Indian Deck hands at Calcutta and Bombay

Ratings.	Present basic wages (including 100 per cent. increase on pre-war wages)	
	Calcutta.	Bombay.
	Rs.	Rs.
Seerangs	120	130
Seacanny	110	120
First Tindal	74	92
Second Tindal	60	70
Cassab	60	64
Winchman	56	68
Lascar (first grade)	50	60
Lascar (second grade)	44	56
	to 45	
Lascar (third grade)	35	50
	to 42	
Lascar's Boys	24	30
Bhandary	50	60
Bhandary Mate	20	40
	to 24	
Topass	44	46

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN THE EASTERN ZONE OF CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

104. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Central Public Works Department has been bifurcated into Eastern and Western Zones?

(b) Is it a fact that there is under recruitment of Muslims in all grades of service in the Eastern Zone? If so, have Government taken any steps to redress this grievance? If so, what? If not, why not?

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

(b) In the case of Subordinates, there was an under recruitment of Muslims in the Eastern Zone and over recruitment of Muslims in the Western Zone, if these Zones are considered separate units. But there is no deficiency in the recruitment of Muslims in the Central Public Works Department considered as a whole.

In the case of Temporary Engineers there was over recruitment of Muslims in the Western Zone, and under recruitment in the Eastern Zone due to the fact that suitable Muslim candidates were not available in that Zone at the time the recruitment was made. This deficiency in the Eastern Zone will be made good gradually as suitable Muslims become available.

There is no deficiency of Muslims in any other grade either in the Eastern or in the Western Zone.

ORDINANCE OF THE NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

155. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state when the Ordinance of the Natal Provincial Council is to be passed?

(b) Are the Government of India aware of the provisions of the Ordinance?

(c) Are the Government of India satisfied that the provisions are not detrimental to the interests of Indians in Natal?

(d) Is it a fact that Town Boards and Town Councils in Natal do not contain any Indian representatives?

(e) Is it a fact that the Housing Board which has been formed in Natal is buying up all the property declared by the Licensing Board as not transferable by a member of one race to a member of another to the detriment of Indians holding properties?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance. The Ordinance passed its third reading in the Natal Provincial Council on the 2nd November, 1944.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) I have no accurate information but the number of Indian representatives on these bodies must be negligible, if not *nil*.

(e) As far as Government are aware a Housing Board with functions described by the Honourable Member is proposed to be set up under an Ordinance now before the Natal Provincial Council but none is functioning at present.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF THE U. K. C. C.

156. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state when the U. K. C. C.'s activities were last reviewed? What are the results of such a review?

(b) Does the policy and attitude of the Government of India for the U. K. C. C. require any change in view of the enormous profits derived by the concern to the detriment of Indian interests?

(c) Is there any suggestion to the Government of India by the Indian Commercial representatives to start an Indian organization similar to the U. K. C. C. for carrying on India's export trade? If so, what has been the reply by the Government of India?

(d) Is there any possibility of starting such a concern to safeguard the business interests of India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The activities of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation are reported to the Government of India every month. The review of such activities has at no time disclosed any breach of the statutory or other regulations in force.

(b) The Government of India have no information that the U.K.C.C. have derived enormous profits from their operations in India.

(c) Suggestions regarding the desirability of establishing a Government organisation in India similar to the U.K.C.C. have been made from time to time but the consensus of opinion expressed by representatives of Indian Commerce and Industry who were invited to a conference in September last was not in favour of the creation of such an organisation.

(d) The Government of India do not consider that the creation of a Government trading agency at present will safeguard the business interests of India.

PLAN FOR BUILDING UP OF FOODGRAINS RESERVE.

156A. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if Government have made any effective plan to build up a foodgrain reserve as recommended by the Foodgrains Committee of Dr. Gregory, and with what success?

(b) Why have Government failed to mobilize and store adequate quantities of food in food deficit Provinces such as Madras, certain districts of Orissa, Bihar and Bengal during the last ten months?

(c) Is it the intention of the Government to leave Provinces to shift for themselves or to go to their rescue in time?

(d) Do Government propose to import adequate quantities of foodgrains from surplus Provinces such as Sind and Punjab and also from Canada and Australia into deficit Provinces such as Madras, Bombay? If so, what special steps are being taken to import foodgrains in time from other Provinces and from abroad into deficit Provinces and districts?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes, but the supplies which have been made available to the Central Government have been little more than sufficient to meet immediate current requirements and to enable Provincial and State Governments to establish the necessary reserves against their own rationing and provisioning schemes.

(b) The Provincial Governments concerned have mobilised their resources and the Central Government have sent large quantities of food to the areas in question.

(c) It is the intention of the Government of India to forestall local shortages wherever possible.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. In so far as the second part of the question is concerned the Food Department allot

the surpluses declared by surplus Provinces to meet the needs of deficit provinces under what is known as the Basic Plan. The Department, in consultation with the War Transport Department endeavours to secure that the surpluses so allotted are despatched to their destinations at a high priority and with the least avoidable delay.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RADIO SETS RECEIVED UNDER LEASE AND LEND

38. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state how many radio sets the Government have received under the Lease and Lend during the period from 1st October, 1943 to date?

(b) How have they been distributed amongst the different provinces in India, and how is their cost to be met?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) None.

(b) Does not arise.

PAPER ANNUALLY SUPPLIED TO BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, ETC.

39. Bhai Parma Nand: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the quantity of paper supplied in each year since 1941 to (i) the Bureau of Public Information, (ii) the Counter-Propaganda Directorate, (iii) Film Publicity, (iv) External Publicity and (v) Foreign Publicity?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As the question concerns the Labour Department I am answering it. The information as far as readily available is given in the statement below:—

Statement

Indentor	Tonnage consumed during 1-4-1943 to 31-3-1944	Tonnage consumed during 1-4-1944 to 31-8-1944
(i) Bureau of Public Information	162	55
(ii) Counter Propaganda Directorate	50	23
(iii) Film Publicity	Not available.	1
(iv) External Publicity	18	N/A
(v) Foreign Publicity	99	17

NOTE:—(1) The figures prior to 1st April 1944 in the case of Film Publicity and 1st April 1943 in the case of the rest are not available. The figures relate to Financial years.

(2) The figure shown against item No. (iv) above represents the consumption by the British Ministry of Information.

(3) The figures against items (iii) and (v) are in respect of the consumption of "Information Films of India" and "Publicity Officer (Foreign)", respectively.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 3rd November, 1944, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Advisory Board of Archæology in India, three nominations were received. Subsequently one candidate withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected: (1) Dr. P. N. Banerjea, (2) Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Public Debt (Central Government) Bill together with the Bill as amended by the Select Committee.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

CASES IN WHICH THE LOWEST TENDERS HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I lay on the table four statements furnished by the High Commissioner for India, London, showing all cases in which the lowest tenders have not been accepted by him in purchasing stores for the Government of India during the half years ended 31st December 1941, 30th June 1942, 31st December 1942 and 30th June 1943.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

ABSTRACT of Cases in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1941.

PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders, for foreign made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders—Nil.

PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only.

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reason for acceptance
	Sq. yds.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Glass Substitute on fabric base	30,000	A. 1160/458/27-6-41	Dafay Chromax Ltd.	5,240 17 7	..	50,000 yds. of glass substitute on a fabric base were recd. very urgently. Two tenders only offered suitable material.
Ditto	20,000	A. 1161/458/27-6-41	British Celanese, Ltd.	1,958 6 8	..	20,000 yards were ordered from the lower who offered to commence delivery in 12 weeks and to deliver at the rate of 10,000 yards every 3 weeks. The remainder was ordered from the next tenderer who offered delivery in 3 weeks.
Ligature, Catgut, Steri. fixed, one length of 28" in tubes, size 1-4.	20,076	A. 1822/1976/9-9-41	Allen & Hamburys, Ltd.	451 14 2 plus packing & delivery f. o. b. at cost. (British).	260 19 0 (British).	The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 7-15 months. The next lowest offered delivery in 4-7 months. The order was therefore placed with the third lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4-8 weeks.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Ligatures, Catgut, Sterilised, one length of 5 ft. in tubes size 00, 0, 1, 2, 3.	Nos. 83,715	A. 1823/1976/3-9-41	Johnson & Johnson (Gt. Britain), Ltd.	2,000 13 9 (British).	1,857 12 2 (British).	The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8-14 months. The order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 13 weeks.
Bearings, Roller Journal metric size 40x 80x 23 mm.	Nos. 24	A. 2025/2516/1-10-41	The Hoffman Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	10 10 7 (British).	8 18 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 18-20 weeks. The incident asked for supply as soon as possible and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 2-3 weeks.
Ligatures, Catgut, Sterilised, plain, non-boilable, medium hard, boxes of 12 glass capsules each containing 1 length of 5 ft. sizes 1 to 5, 1/0, 2/0, 3/0, 5/0.	Boxes 2,188	A. 2051/3167/4-10-41	Johnson & Johnson (Gt. Britain), Ltd.	750 9 8 (British).	574 7 0 (British).	The ligatures were required very urgently in replacement of stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 6-8 months. The order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered delivery in 7-15 weeks.
Ligatures, Catgut, Sterilised, plain, non-boilable, medium hard, boxes of 12 glass capsules each containing 1 length of 5 ft. sizes 6 and 6/0.	Boxes 502	A. 2052/3167/4-10-41	Allen & Hanburys, Ltd.	215 10 2 plus delivery and f. o. b. at cost. (British).	131 15 6 (British).	The ligatures were required very urgently in replacement of ligatures lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 6-8 months. The order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered delivery in 8-12 weeks.
Spare parts for Carden Loyd Light Tanks. Mark IV-A. Fan Spanner.	Nos. 12	A. 2339/1574/7-11-41	R. T. Shelley, Ltd.	9 6 0 (British).	4 10 0 (British).	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 30 weeks. As the spanners were required urgently, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered very early delivery.

C
N
Single Eased Box Spanner for Bevel Shaft Nut 1-1/8" Whitworth.

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reason for acceptance
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Ligatures, Catgut, one length of 28" in a glass tube :—Sizes 1, 2 & 3.	Tubes 18,248	A. 2461/3920/21-11-41	G. F. Messon, Ltd.	266 2 3/4 (British).	228 0 0 (British).	The ligatures were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered two alternatives viz :—in envelopes for delivery in 6 months, or in tubes at a higher price for delivery in 1½-2 weeks. In view of the urgency the latter was accepted.
Ligatures, Catgut, sterilised, one length of 5 ft. in a glass tube.	Tubes 9,708	A. 2594/3920/1-12-41	Armour & Co., Ltd.	293 13 4 (British).	212 7 3 (British).	The ligatures were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 26 weeks. The order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 1 week.
Sulpharephen-amina, B. P. Amps.	21,500 Amps.	A. 2603/4066/2-12-41	Boots Pure Drug, Co., Ltd.	796 17 6 (British).	483 6 8 (British).	The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery to commence in March and complete in Nov. 1942. The order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered delivery in 2 months.
Knives, Band, 20' x 1" with plain edge, for "Crescent" Band Knife-cutting machines.	Nos. 240	A. 2637/4403/4-12-41	Aublet, Homer & Co.	117 0 0 (British).	114 0 0 (British).	The knives were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lower tenderer offered delivery in 12 weeks. The higher tenderer offered delivery of 240

knives in 4-6 weeks, and the order for this quantity was therefore placed with him. The remaining 48 knives were ordered from the lower tenderer.

The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The delivery offered by the lowest tenderer was indefinite and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 7 days.

The sodii phosphas was required very urgently to replace material lost by enemy action, and in order to expedite supply the order was divided between the two tenderers.

The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10 weeks. As the tubing was required in India as early as possible the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 2-3 weeks.

3 5 0
(British).

5 3 4
(British).

A. 2745/4477/12-12-41. John Weiss & Sons, Ltd.

146 8 0
(British).

103 14 0
(British).

37 Addition A. 2893/4250/13-11-41. Burgoyne Burbidge & Co., Ltd.
7 A. 2711/4250/10-12-41. Thomas Tyrer & Co., Ltd.

152 14 0

1,452 8 11
(British).

1,457 14 0
(British).

219 A. 2894/4164/27-12-41. Chas. Clifford & Son, Ltd.

Copper tubing

Part C.—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only—Nil.
Part D.—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders—Nil.

Chemical Apparatus parts

Sodii Phosphas Acidus B.

P.

Ditto

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trust worthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1942

PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders, for foreign made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders.—Nil.
 PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only.

Stores ordered.	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted.	Reason for acceptance
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Circuit breakers outdoor. Trip Coils Three Phase Contacts.	10 Nos. 1 set. 2 sets.	A. 2965/5073/1-1-42	Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Export Co., Ltd.	544 10 0 (British).	522 0 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 18-22 weeks. The stores were required in India by April-May 1942 and the order was therefore placed with the next tenderer, who offered delivery in 7-11 weeks.
Tools, Measuring	158 pairs	A. 2978/5314/3-1-42	Covenry Gauge & Tool Co., Ltd.	232 12 6	209 8 4	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 10/40 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India. The order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8/10 weeks.
Reagents (various)		A. 3157/4453/17-1-42	Hopkin & Williams, Ltd.	43 8 9 (British).	40 15 7 (British).	The stores were very urgently required in India to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lower tenderer offered delivery in about 4 months, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 4 weeks.
Cutters, Concave Speed Steel.	36 Nos.	A. 3293/5706/21-1-42	Thos. Firth & John Brown Ltd.	172 16 0 (British).	168 8 0 (British).	The stores were required in India by April 1942. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 36 working weeks from receipt of the Export Licence number " and "subject to Govern-

ment priority work". Their quotation was also subject to increase. The order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 5-6 months.

Saws, Band, for "Doall" machine. Set of teeth. ·042" --- 1/4" width by 18 teeth per inch. 3/16 width by 18 teeth per inch.		John Elsworth & Sons, (Sheffield), Ltd.	26 5 0 (British). Plus postage at cost.	19 2 8 (British).	The incient asked for supply in India of part by March and the balance by June 1942. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10-12 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the next equal lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 1 week.
Tubing, India Rubber :— 3/8" wall × 1/4" bore . 3/8" wall × 1" bore .	Ft. 100 100	J. G. Ingram & Son, Ltd.	19 15 10 (British).	16 5 0 (British).	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 4 months. The tubing was required in India as early as possible in view of the heavy counts programme, and the order therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 2-3 weeks.
Wrought Iron round bars for cold riveting :— 1-1/2" round . 4 tons.		The low Moor Best Yorkshire Iron, Ltd.	157 0 0 (British).	152 0 0 (British).	The Indent, which was originally placed in America and was subsequently repatriated to this country, asked for supply as early as possible: the lowest tenderer offered delivery in 18-20 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 2 weeks.
Wire, Electric, Copper, hard drawn, High Conductivity, bare stranded. Size, 7, stroke. 193 .	8800 lbs.	British Insulated Cables, Ltd.	356 10 4 (British).	354 5 6	The stores were urgently required at Site in India by 15th April 1942. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8 weeks and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 1 week.

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reason for acceptance
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Saws, Band for Thell machines — Teeth 6 per c. m. Width 8 m.m.	550 Rft.	A. 3936/6141/5-3-42	E. H. Jones (machine Tools), Ltd.	15 0 0 (British).	10 8 6 (British).	The Indent asked for supply in India of part by March and balance by June 1942. The lower tendered offered delivery in 10-12 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery ex-stock.
Ligatures, Catgut, Tubes of 28" size 1.	6600 tubes	A. 3994.6662/9-3-42	Armour & Co., Ltd.	138 7 10 (British).	(British).	The ligatures were required in India very urgently in replacement of stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 3 months, and the order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 1½ weeks.
Steel, Mild, Hexagon, Black 5/8" Nut (1.100 across flats) in 12 to 16 ft. lengths.	4 tons.	A. 4033/6001/11-3-42	Colville, Ltd.	81 1 0	77 1 0	The Indent, which was originally placed in America and was subsequently repatriated to this country, asked for supply as early as possible. The lower tenderer offered delivery in 12 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 4-6 weeks.
Floating carriage diameter measuring machines 0.4".	No. 2	A. 4251/5973/26-3-42	Conventry Gauge & Tool Co., Ltd.	133 0 0 plus N. P. L. foca. (British).	120 0 0 (British).	The Indent asked for supply in India by 15th March 1942. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10 weeks and the order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in approx. 4 weeks.

Ligature, Catgut, Sterilized :—Plain 5 ft. strand in a glass tube :— Size 3	D. 363/7339/20-4-42 D. 365/7339/20-4-42	Curzon Gerrard & Co., Ltd. Tubes 34260 G. F. Merson, Ltd. Tubes 42000.	832 14 2 1050 0 0	1,853 10 0 (British). 106 17 6 (British).	The Ligatures were very urgently required in India, and to expedite supply, the order was divided between the two lowest tenders.
Rods, Coupling, Trail- ing :— Right hand Left hand	B. 646/7220/5-5-42	North British Locomotive Co., Ltd.	1,882 14 0 (British). 145 0 0 (British).	106 17 6 (British).	The Indent, which was originally placed in America, and was subsequently repatriated to this country, asked for supply as early as possible. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 36 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 12 weeks.
Levels, 9-5' in box with stand.	B. 829/3/15-5-42	Hall Bros.	658 2 6 (British).	600 0 0 (Approx.) (British).	The lower tenderer offered delivery towards the end of 1942. The Indent requested the stores to be in India by June 1942, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 5 weeks.
Regulus Metal Valves :— 2" bore 1" bore	B. 994/7811/28-5-42	Haughtons Metallic Co., Ltd.	342 15 0 (British).	243 10 0 (British).	The lowest suitable tenderer offered delivery in 6 months. The stores were required at site in India by 1st September 1942 and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 9-10 weeks.
Ligature, Catgut, Sterilized :— Lengths of 5 ft. in tubes :— Size 2 Size 3	B. 1014/WF. 1976/29-5-42	G. S. Merson, Ltd.	109 10 0 (British).	106 9 2 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery by approx. mid September 1942. The stores were urgently required in India and the order was therefore packed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 7/10 days.
Pneumatic Grinders	B. 1031/241/1-6-42	Holman Bros., Ltd.	113 8 0 (British).	91 16 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 20-24 weeks. As the stores were required in India by June 1942, the order was placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6 weeks.

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
				₹. p. d.	₹. p. d.	
Oil Stones (Various)	Nos. 419	B. 1073/229/3-6-42	The Carborandum, Co., Ltd.	30 16 7 (British).	26 19 10 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in approx. 7 months. The stores were required in India by the end of July 1942, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in about 10-12 weeks.
Bolts and Nuts, Mild Steel, Bright.	Nos. 6400	B. 1359/531/23-6-42	Stoll Parts, Ltd.	42 4 6 (British).	38 5 11 (British).	The lowest tenderer could not offer a delivery date. As the stores were required in India by 30th June 1942, the order was placed with a higher tenderer who offered the store ready for inspection in about 10 weeks.
Surface table 6' x 3' marking out, on four legs, marked in 6" squares. Allowable variation .001" per foot.	Nos. 1	B. 1390/1157/25-6-42	W. Motting, Ltd.	41 0 0 (British).	37 0 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8-10 weeks. The surface table was required at site in India by October 1942 and the order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered a table of superior design for delivery in 5 weeks.
Steel Spring Flat :— 1-3/8" x 1/16" 1-4/8" x 1/16" 2-1/8" x 5/64"	1 cwt. 2 cwts. 4 cwts.	B. 1508/124/30-6-42	The Rotherham Steel Strip, Co., Ltd.	15 13 6 (British).	12 10 2 (British).	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 26 weeks. As the stores were required in India from March to September 1942, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6-8 weeks.

Part C.—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only—N4.
Part D.—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders—N4.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders, for foreign made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders—Nil.
PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only.

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest Tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
Sheet Spring Steel :— Sheets 4' X 2'.	Ton 1	B. 1513/950/1-7-42	William Jessop & Sons, Ltd.	£. s. d. 66.10 0 (British).	£. s. d. 55.10 0 (British).	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 12 weeks (not guaranteed). As half the quantity of the stores was required in India by June 1942, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6-8 weeks.
Flannel, White Best Roll, Rot-proof, 36" wide, 14½ ozs. per yard.	Yards 150	B. 1645/123/8-7-42	Hugh Shaw, Ltd.	32 18 1 (British).	30 9 4 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-13 weeks. As the stores were required in India as soon as possible after the 1st April 1942, and supply was expedited by telegram the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4 weeks.
Paper, printing Art, imitation, Double Crown, 20" X 30" 45 lbs.	Reams, 50	B. 1752/367/14-7-42	Alex. Cowan & Sons, Ltd.	73 15 0 (British).	70 6 3 (British).	The paper was very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer could not offer a definite delivery date, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 3-4 weeks.

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest Tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Bearings, Full, Double Row, Journal, Self-aligning, 2" bore etc.	Nos. 9	B. 1810/1480/20-7-42	Ransome & Marles, Bearing Co., Ltd.	7 7 9 (British).	5 8 1 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery approx. end of October 1942. The stores were required in India by September 1942, and the order was therefore placed with the highest tenderer who offered delivery in 4-5 weeks.
Bolting, Driving Lacing ("Alligator" type) (Steel) :—		B. 1803/4624/23-7-44	Automatic Pressings, Ltd.	59 9 6 (British).	48 5 3 (British).	The bolting was urgently required in India to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lower tenderer offered delivery in 12-16 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6-8 weeks.
Glasses, Straight for gauge column Cook :—		B. 1910/1648/27-7-42	John Moncrieff, Ltd. (half quantities). S. & C. Bishop & Co., Ltd. (Half quantities).	216 15 9 235 18 9		The stores were required in India by 31st July 1942, and in order to expedite supply the order was divided between the two tenderers.
length :—		B. 1911/1648/27-7-42		452 14 6 (British).	433 11 5 (British).	
10½"	Nos. 8000					
8½"	9000					
10½"	6000					
11½"	1500					
Switchboard cable 22 wire 9½ lbs. per mile.	Yds. 1530	B. 1965/1923/30-7-42	Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd.	113 10 0 (British).	97 0 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12 months after receipt of all licences. The stores were urgently required in India, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 12-14 weeks.

Lamps, Electric, Discharge, Nos. 500 Fluorescent, etc. :-	B. 2153/2051/19-8-42	The Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd. (200 lamps).	435 0 0 728 2 6		The lowest tenderer could not commence delivery for 20 weeks. As the stores were required in India by October 1942, the order was divided between the two higher tenderers, in order to expedite supply.
230 volts, 400 watts.	B. 2154/2051/19-8-42	The General Electric Co. Ltd. (300 lamps).	1,213 2 6 (British).	1,097 18 4 (British).	
Rings, retaining, steel 3'-3" for tyre fastening.	Nos. 400 B. 2356/1675/4-9-42	The Glasgow Rly. Engineering Co., Ltd.	206 5 0 (British).	178 15 0 (British).	The indent, which was originally placed in America and was subsequently repatriated to this country, asked for supply as early as possible. The lowest tenderer offered delivery at the end of March, 1943 and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 9-10 weeks.
Grinders Electric, Portable hand ball bearings.	Nos. 20 B. 2694/2470/1-10-42	S. Wolf & Co., Ltd. (10 grinders, 60 spare wheels).	214 7 7 265 4 0		The lower tenderer was unable to commence delivery before February 1943. Ten machines and seventy stones were required in India by December 1942. This urgent portion of the demand was therefore ordered from Van Dorn Electric Tools who offered delivery in 6 weeks. The balance was allotted to Wolf & Co., Ltd.
Spare wheels	130 B. 2695/2470/1-10-42	Van Dorn Electric Tools. (10 grinders, 70 spare wheels).	479 11 7 (British).	436 3 0 (British).	
Razors, with nickel silver scales, in cardboard case.	Nos. 2000 B. 3220/2802/4-11-42	Joseph Rodgers & Sons, Ltd.	300 0 0 (British).	292 10 0 (British).	In view of the long time for delivery offered by the lower tenderer, who offered 100 per week commencing at the end of March 1942 the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery at the rate of 50 dozen per month commencing at the end of January 1943.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[7TH Nov. 1944

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Mild Steel Pots 15½" dia. by 18" depth :— Calorised : : Nos. 40 Uncalorised : : Nos. 20		B. 3283/3417/9-11-42	Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.	753 12 0 (British).	690 0 0 (British).	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 28-30 weeks. As the stores were required in India by Nov. '42, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery of the uncalorised pots in 4-6 weeks, 10 calorised pots immediately and the balance within 6 weeks.
Knives, Spare, for paper cutting machine.	Nos. 6	B. 3304/3113/9-11-42	F. Mountford & Sons, Ltd.	29 4 0 (British).	23 8 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-16 weeks. As the early supply of the stores had been specially requested by the indentor, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4-6 weeks.
Gaskets, Asbestos, Wire woven, 4-11/16" sq.	Nos. 5000	B. 3317/3957/10-11-42	Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd.	105 0 0 (British).	88 7 6 (British).	The stores were urgently required in India to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lower tenderer offered delivery in 8-10 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery from stock.
Bulbs, hooded, 3-5 volts for cystaloscopes :— (a) Adult's size. Gauge CS/2. (b) Child's size. Gauge CS/2.	No. 500 500	B. 3524/3287/25-11-42	James L. Hatrick & Co., (London), Ltd.	210 0 0 plus packing, plus postage & insurance at cost.	175 0 0	The indent requires the stores in India in instalments complete by Dec. 43. The lowest tenderer already has a much larger contract for similar stores, on which he is unable to maintain his promised rate of delivery and which is likely to take most of 1943 to complete. On the recommendation

of the Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State the new contract was placed with the next lowest tenderer in order to ensure complete delivery of outstanding requirements in the time specified.

The lower tenderer offered delivery in 12-26 weeks. As the stores were required in India in April to Sept. 42, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8-16 weeks.

23 18 3
(British).

25 17 3
(British).

The Hoffmann-Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

B. 3951/907/30-12-42

Ball Bearings (Various)

Part C.—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only—Nil.

Part D.—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders—Nil.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1943.

PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders, for foreign-made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders—Nil.
PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only.

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
Bridge-Megger Testing Set, 1000 volts.	No. 1	B: 4079/4757/11-1-43	Evershed & Vignoles, Ltd.	50 11 3 (British).	33 5 9 (British).	The incident required the stores at site in India by March, '43. As the lower tenderer offered delivery in 10-12 months, the order was placed with the higher tenderer, who offered delivery in 6 months.

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted.	Reasons for acceptance
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Hoists, Ball-Bearing, Spur-Gearing, etc.	Nos. 100	B. 4378/4997/30-1-43	The Yale & Towns Manufacturing Co.	1,200 0 0 (British).	1,100 0 0 (British).	The lowest suitable tenderer offered to commence delivery in 16 weeks at the rate of 15-20 per week. The indent required half the quantity of stores at site in India by March 1943, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 10-12 weeks, with part earlier.
Screws (various sizes and quantities).	--	B. 4512/4983/13-2-43	Unbrako Socket Screw Co., Ltd.	52 12 6 (British).	43 4 9 P/ae keys. (British).	The lowest tenderer could not promise a date for delivery as the stores would be manufactured in U. S. A. The next lowest tenderer offered part delivery from stock and completion in 12-14 weeks. The remaining tenderer was only 2s. 8d. higher than the second lowest tenderer and offered complete delivery in 8 weeks. As part of the requirements were specified to reach India by the 1st April 1943, the order was placed with the last mentioned tenderer.
Gauges, Pressure, Com-pounded, 7" dia.	Nos. 12	B. 4576/4892/23-2-43	Payne & Griffiths, Ltd.	22 16 3 (British).	13 7 10 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 13-14 weeks. The next lowest offered delivery in 30 weeks. As the stores were required at site in India by February 1943, the order was placed with the third lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 8 weeks.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Copper Tacks, cut 3/8" x 1/2" and 5/8"	19,856 lbs.	B. 4568/5325/24-2-43 B. 4589/5325/24-2-43	Hall & Rice, Ltd. (9928 lbs.) Harrison & Cook. (9928 lbs.)	564 16 7 587 15 2 <hr/> 1,132 11 10 (British). 695 16 0 (British).	The Copper tacks were required in India by March 1943, and to expedite supply the order was divided between the two tenderers.
Motor Generator Sets	Nos. 2	C. 132/6735/7-1-43	The Electric Construction Co., Ltd.	1,129 13 2 (British). 673 8 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 28/46 weeks. As the stores were required in India as soon as possible, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 20 weeks.
Sterilisers, Portable, etc.	Nos. 500	C. 690/394/22-5-43	Surgical Equipment Supplies, Ltd.	706 0 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered to commence delivery in 26 weeks and to complete in 36 weeks. The indenter required the stores in India by 30th April 1943, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 6 weeks.
Copper Wire double rayon covered.	800 lbs.	C. 633/732/31-5-43	The London Electric Wire Co. and Smiths, Ltd.	167 18 4 (British). 159 0 10 (British).	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 6 months, and the next lowest in 20-25 weeks. As the stores were required very urgently, and were in replacement of those lost at sea by enemy action, the order was placed with the highest tenderer who offered delivery in 12 weeks.

Part C.—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only.—Nil.
Part D.—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders.—Nil.

THE FACTORIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by the Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on Wednesday, the 1st November, 1944, namely:—

“That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934 (Second Amendment), be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fasil-Haq Piracha, Mr. R. R. Gupta, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. D. S. Joshi, and the mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): The first part of the Bill provides compensatory days of rest when the Provincial Governments exempt certain factories from the operation of section 35 of the Factories Act, making a weekly day of rest obligatory. This removes one of the defects of the present Factory Act and therefore the Amendment is a welcome one.

Sir, the second part of the Bill deals with the principle that human beings after continuous work for a long period, say for a year, require certain continuous holidays, so that their health may be recouped and efficiency revived. I therefore congratulate the Honourable the Labour Member for having proposed to apply that principle of a continuous holiday to the working classes in this country. But, Sir, unfortunately the Honourable Member restricts the application of this principle only to workers working in factories. There are other industries in which workers work for a continuous period and they work very hard and therefore are equally entitled to a continuous holiday as the workers in the factories are entitled to. Take for instance the mines. The conditions under which the miners work are harder and more unpleasant than those of the factory workers. Still the Honourable Member does not propose to give them a continuous holiday, even though they may work for a year or a longer period. I wish, Sir, that the Honourable the Labour Member, instead of proposing that the application of the principle of a paid holiday should be restricted to the factory workers, had brought forward a measure applying the same principle to all industrial workers. In that case the measure would have been more welcome to the working classes of this country. It seems to me that the Government of India believes that if they were to make any progress, they should go very slow. I know that they are considering the question of health insurance but they begin with the factory workers only. Similarly, when they are proposing to give holidays to the workers, they begin with the factory workers only. I would like them to consider whether this rate of progress is not a very slow one. If they begin to give holidays to the workers in the factories first, then to miners, then to dock workers and then to the plantation workers, it will take several years before all the industrial workers are covered. I would like, Sir, the Honourable the Labour Member to consider whether he should not adopt any other method, so that progress will be quicker.

Then, Sir, the holiday which the Honourable the Labour Member proposes for the workers in factories is a very short one and in my judgment it is very inadequate considering their need for rest. He will agree that work in a factory is a very hard one and if a man works continuously for a year, a holiday of seven days out of which he will receive payment only for six, is not a sufficient rest. Therefore the Honourable Member has, in my judgment, made a mistake in making the holiday such a short one. Sir, those who work in Government offices generally get a month's holiday and that holiday is also a paid one. Moreover, work in an office, especially in a Government office, is not half so hard as work in a factory. I therefore think that the Honourable Member should have kept the paid holiday larger than what the Government of India gives to its employees working in offices. In Russia the industrial workers get a month's paid holiday. In several other countries the holiday given is a larger one and I thought that the Government of India would follow the examples of countries where workers are properly cared for, like Russia and other countries. This question was considered by the Bihar Labour Com-

mittee and they recommended that the holiday should be at least for a fortnight, and in the case of heavy workers such as workers in steel factories, they recommended a three weeks holiday. The Government of India did not accept even that modest proposal. Moreover, when we are considering the question of the length of the holiday, generally speaking, young persons below the age of 18 or 16 are given a longer holiday. There is a Convention passed by the International Labour Organisation on this subject of holidays with pay; and in that Convention special provision is made for longer holidays for young persons. (An Honourable Member: "Even in schools they have long holidays!") The Convention passed by the International Labour Organisation also proposed that the length of the holiday should be in proportion to the length of the service; that is, if a man works in an industry for several years he should get a longer holiday, because he needs a continuous rest much longer than a man who freshly joins an industry. I hope that the Government of India and the legislature will consider this point regarding the adequacy of the length of the holiday.

Then this Bill provides that in order that a workman should be entitled to get a continuous holiday, he must work in one factory. I think that is a wrong thing. The worker should be free to choose his employer when he finds that the conditions are not suitable. If you pass legislation providing for a holiday for a workman, on condition that he will get the holiday only if he does not change his master, then the Government of India is weakening the power of bargaining of the worker. If the workman is free to change his master, he has a better power of bargaining regarding the conditions of his work than if he is tied down to one master. It is quite possible to make some arrangement by which a man may change his master but keep his right to a holiday if he works in one industry for a period of 12 months or more. I hope that the Legislature and the Government of India will consider this question.

Then, the Convention passed by the International Labour Organisation also provides a proposal that an agreement to relinquish his right by a workman with his master should be made void. I hope that the Government of India will accept this proposal also.

It is a good thing that this Bill provides for a continuous holiday, although the provision is inadequate. But let me tell this House and also the Government of India that in a country like India where distances are very great, if your holiday is only six days holiday, it will be difficult for workers to go home and enjoy the holiday. Half of his time—perhaps more than half—will be spent on the railway train. If a short holiday is to be given and if the worker is to take advantage of it, the Government of India should have made some provision for what I may call holiday homes. Such holiday homes are provided in Russia and in several other countries. Therefore, as the Government of India is thinking of giving a holiday and if the holiday is to be properly used by the workers, the Government of India should move in the matter to see that some holiday homes are provided for the workers. Otherwise the holiday may not be as useful as it should be.

There is also another point which I want to make and it is this: in India as I have said the distances are very large. If workers have to go home and even not for very long distances they will have to spend some money on travelling out of the small amount which they will get for six days. In India the average wage is generally 8 annas a day—the highest average wage is about a rupee a day. If a man gets a paid holiday for six days and if the average wage is only 8 annas, he will get three rupees. After spending for his railway fare out of these three rupees, what can he spend for the enjoyment of the holiday? The average wage in India will not be more than 8 annas a day. It is true that in the case of Bombay, of which my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir has some knowledge, the average wage is about a rupee a day; but even taking that figure, after all 6 rupees is not a sufficient sum for the enjoyment of a holiday for six days. I would therefore suggest to the Honourable Labour Member that he should approach the Honourable Railway

[Mr. M. N. Joshi.]

Member, who is not present here, that the railways should give concessions to the workers when they go out on a holiday. The Indian railways give concessions to all sorts of people, for parties going out for cricket or hockey matches, for theatrical companies going from place to place, for people going to conferences etc., and I therefore suggest to the Honourable Labour Member to persuade his colleague, the Railway Member, to provide railway concessions for the workers who take advantage of the Bill for providing for a paid holiday and who want to enjoy that holiday and recoup their health and revive their efficiency. I have great pleasure in supporting the motion made by the Honourable Labour Member.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I have listened with great interest to both the speeches, the one made by the Honourable Labour Member introducing his Bill, and the other made by that veteran labour and social worker from Bombay, Mr. N. M. Joshi. I shall first deal with certain general observations made by the Honourable Labour Member. He referred to the past history of this case; he referred to the debate which took place in this House in January 1937 when Sir Frank Noyce moved "that the House do not approve of the Convention passed by the International Labour Conference". I shall just read what the Government of India's view as placed before the convention in Geneva was: it said:

"The Government of India believe that the principle is sound"—(*I agree and also believe that the principle is sound*)—"but every sound principle of labour welfare is not capable of satisfactory general enforcement by legislative enactment. In the present case any attempt to enforce a general system in India would meet with grave difficulties. Much of the labour employed in industries is drawn from and maintains contact with villages at long distances from industrial centres and a holiday would be of little value to the workers unless it made it possible for them to revisit their villages. But few could afford to make such a journey every year. Again holidays would lose much of their value for the worker unless they could be taken at a time when on account of"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think the Honourable Member need read all that at such length. If he has any comments to make, he can do so.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: The Government of India's contention was that conditions in India were so different that the object of such a proposal would not be achieved. Take the question of long distances and family events which are more numerous than in any other country I know of. Everybody is interested in the marriages and deaths of fifth cousins and sixth cousins, the funerals and so on and the result is that a holiday with pay would be a misnomer in this country. If I were the Labour Member, I would straight-away say 'Pay your workers 6 days' additional wages and do not care what they do and how they spend the time'. Take my own constituency in the Bombay Presidency. We get workers from the Coast districts, to which practically for four months in the year—from May 15th to September 15—there is no transport. If they have to go at all during the monsoon, they have to go, first to the Deccan, to Kolhapur and then by bus to the coast, in a very difficult time of the year when rains are heavy in the Ghats. We get workers from the Ghats and the villages near by, from Poona and Satara and other districts. Then we get workers from the Hyderabad State and lastly we get workers from the U.P. who are known as Bhaiyas in Bombay.

Now, Sir, our experience is that the demand for holidays comes in three or four seasons. The first is before the sowing time, the second when the crops are harvested and the third is when the marriage season starts. Just before I left Bombay, my manager reported that there were so many applications for leave and if all of them were granted leave it would result in dislocation of work. In the case of the Hindus, the marriage season comes in a particular period of the year.

Now, what will be the effect of this Bill. If Holidays with pay Bill is passed, then you are compelling the employers to grant leave to their employees. The principle of compulsion has not been introduced even in England up to

now. Lord Amulree's report has not been given effect to. On the other hand, Government have allowed this scheme of holidays with pay to be developed by voluntary co-operation between the employers and the employees and even in India such a movement has already taken place. My friend Mr. Miller referred to what has happened at Calcutta. There people are given pay for seven closed festival days. I know one concern in Bangalore where they started a scheme of holiday with pay a long time ago. Owing to a flaw in their orders, the workers, instead of taking this 7 or 10 days in one bloc, ask for leave not only on closed days but even on Sundays. Following that precedent, in the Mysore State now, most of the concerns have got schemes for holidays with pay. It is a voluntary development as a result of negotiations between the employers and employees. In my own concerns which I control at Bangalore, I have also accepted this principle but I have accepted the principle of continuous holiday and debarred them from taking leave on closed days. As regards continuous work, the principle I have introduced is that within a year they must put in 270 days work so that there will be 52 holidays and 10 closed days and I have left a gap of 33 days for sickness and other involuntary absence. But if this Bill is passed, what is going to happen is this. The workman will go on 2 months leave and he will get pay for 7 days during the period. Merely 7 days with pay is not really a holiday with pay. The real term ought to be 'leave with pay'. I agree that the system followed in Bengal or in the concern to which I referred in Bangalore is that of holidays with pay. That means that they get pay for some of the customary and sanctioned holidays. This is not leave with pay. I feel that so many complications will arise when people insist on going on leave. A man asks for leave. If it is refused, he goes. He simply goes away. He does not accept the order of the Manager. The next day he simply leaves and then comes and waits at the gate and pleads for mercy to be taken back. Now what has happened in Bombay. Under the Standing Orders, the workman is entitled to leave without pay after he puts in 12 months in the year. Then a further obligation is put upon us—I do not say unreasonably—especially nowadays, when transport difficulties are great. After the leave expires we have to keep the workers' lien on the post for 8 days. There is a ruling given under the Payment of Wages Act now—that if an employee overstays his leave without authority, he loses his lien not on the first day of his unauthorised absence but after 8 days. Even those days of grace have been included by the judgment under the Payment of Wages Act within the leave granted by the Standing Orders and the result is now when these people apply for leave they simply ignore the interests of service. I do not blame them, because our social customs are such that a man wants to attend even if a distant cousin marries. I know of one concern in Hyderabad State with which I am connected as a Director, where if a workman dies the whole mill goes to the funeral and the mill is closed and there is no remedy. My friend Mr. Joshi and his friends have never told the workmen—at least I have not heard it on the floor of the House—not to do these things. He only speaks of our obligations.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: These are social obligations.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You are speaking of social obligations. The clerks do not stay away on occasions like this. If a clerk dies, the whole staff of clerks does not go but only one or two go. They do not abstain from attending office. I know Mr. Joshi wants all the conditions of Government service for his workers. Will he accept all the disciplinary obligations of Government service for the workers?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I will consider.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I am prepared to bargain with him on that point. There is no question of consideration. Here is a question of our giving rights and when I expect obligations in return, Mr. Joshi says that he will consider.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not a dictator.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: It is now sought to impose obligations on the employers by means of legislation. When the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act was passed, there were several obligations put on the worker and Mr. Joshi opposed the measure. It is not a question of dictatorship or consideration. That being the difficult atmosphere in which we have to work, even if the principle is sound, I do not think anybody can call us reactionary if we oppose or find it difficult to support such a measure. I maintain that the conditions that are described in the Government of India's statement before the Labour Convention are still existing in this country. Now, what happened? The Government of India held a Conference when Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar was in charge of the Labour portfolio. At the Conference held by the employers with the Member in Calcutta in 1940 our case was that the first item in a scheme of labour welfare should be the sickness insurance. Government moved in the matter by appointing a special officer. We supported that move and we gave our co-operation. Now we have got a very valuable report from Professor Adarkar. We say that in view of the circumstances prevailing in the country, holidays with pay should be the last item on labour welfare programme. Government have already appointed a Committee for social security. We are going to have unemployment insurance, sickness insurance and minimum wages forced on us. In these circumstances how can Mr. Joshi's charge against the Government of India be justified? If you look at the history of labour legislation, the record of the Government of India is such that they can be proud of it. They have been in much great hurry than several other Governments. I may not go into the motives, but the Government of India have always gone on legislating and compelling employers to do this and that.

A Bill for providing Holidays with pay was actually drafted and sent to us for opinion in 1942. Then, we presented our case and I am glad that even that democratic body among commercial organisations, the Indian Merchants Chamber,—I am sorry Mr. Manu Subedar is not here—also supported the point of view taken by us and other employers. That being the case, I hope the House will understand the difficulty which I feel in supporting or giving whole-hearted support to the proposal made by Dr. Ambedkar before the House.

Now, Sir, I will come to the details of the Bill. I entirely agree with Mr. Joshi that leave or holidays that are granted under the proposed scheme should be continuous. That is the view of the Bombay employers. I believe in Calcutta they have had their difficulties and those difficulties may have to be considered while framing a scheme for holidays with pay. But in principle I entirely agree with Mr. Joshi that the holidays—I would rather call it leave—to be granted should be continuous. The whole trouble arises because the words used are 'holiday with pay'. Leave should be of a continuous nature. I object to the words 'at least'. I think the Government should lay down a definite period. I do not like the expression 'at least' because I want a standard period for all the provinces. I do not want various Provincial Governments having different periods of leave. Bombay, for instance, may give 7 days, Madras 10 or 12 days. The employers might voluntarily make it a period of 12 or 13 days. I would rather increase the number from 7 to 8, 9, or 10 days but it should be a standard period for all the provinces so that the Provincial Governments cannot run amok in compelling employers to grant holidays for different periods.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There is no power given to the Provincial Governments.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You have got the provision for provincial rules. If I am wrong, I shall be corrected by the Honourable Member in charge.

Then, as regards the payment of leave pay in advance. I agree that it is a small amount but it is entirely wrong in principle. Two essential conditions of Government leave rules are: (1) that leave cannot be granted as a matter of right and (2) that leave will be granted only at the convenience of the employers. If leave is refused, the employees are allowed to accumulate

it, but leave can be refused, and it is entirely within the discretion of the employer to refuse even the earned leave if he cannot spare the services of the employee. Further, Government leave rules are that if leave is refused and if the accumulated leave amounts to nine months and the man is due for retirement, he can be given an extension only up to a maximum period of 6 months to enjoy the leave which has been refused to him in the interests of service. I do not think even the *chaprassis* when they go on leave, they get an advance of the leave pay. If I am wrong, I shall be corrected. I know what is happening in various industries. Even if there is no leave with pay due to a man and if he has got a long record of service, we pay him the advance if he wants it because he has been with us for a period of 15 or 20 years. But here what is going to happen is that if you give leave to the man as a matter of right, he will go on 7 days' leave and he may not come back to us and we have no remedy. The object of this Bill is to make labour more or less loyal to one concern so that there is a continuity of service.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is servitude.

Sir Vithal N. Ohandayarkar: I do not want to go into that question because if I do I may have to speak on it for more than one hour. What happens is that the man takes away 3 or 4 rupees and goes away and then comes back and joins another employer or he may not come back at all. The word used is 'earned'; so the Government thinks that he has earned those 7 days' wages. Why don't they follow the same principle in their own case and give the *chaprassis* advances? In Government service if a Government servant over-stays his leave, he loses automatically his lien on the post. But in Bombay we have to keep his lien open for 8 days and if we take any action we have to face so many inquiries under the Bombay Industries Disputes Act and generally the decision goes against us. The man simply says that he posted a letter or a postcard asking for extension of leave. The Standing Orders require that the man should apply in writing for extension of leave. But the worker says that he posted a letter or sent a telegram which is generally of a stereotyped character. Once I almost told the Manager to give typed telegrams to workers when they go on leave so that they may not have to spend money on clerks who write out letters and telegrams for them. Therefore, it is wrong in principle to have this compulsory payment of half wages for 7 days and I oppose it.

Now, what is the position about sickness. Most of these village people go to the villages where there is no Doctor at all. Who is going to certify that the man is really ill? I may be told that the Government will make the rules, but it is very difficult to make rules to provide for all contingencies. Even if a man is really ill and he sends a certificate from an Indian Vaidya or somebody else, we do not know whether such a Vaidya or Doctor even exists there. In a place like Bombay you can get a medical certificate for 4 annas and they are very often used in Government offices. In these conditions I submit that the whole thing should not be left so vague in the Bill. If the Bill is to be improved, the conditions under which a man should become eligible for leave should be specified in the Bill itself. For instance, I have stated that if a man puts in 270 days work in a concern, then it does not matter if he is absent for 30 days on account of sickness or for other involuntary reason. In that case the position of both the employers and the employed will be made clear. But the clause as drafted is very vague and likely to make a difficult situation still more difficult.

Sir, I have nothing to say except this, that if this Bill is to be enacted and enforced, Government should make certain things, which I have mentioned, clear in the Act itself and not leave it to the rule making power. Even when the rule making power is exercised, it should be exercised in such a way that it does not lead to friction between the employers and the employees. The first principle that leave can be granted only at the convenience of the employer should be incorporated in the rules. My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi says, no. Again, I take the case of my own concerns at Bangalore. The scheme there was accepted by a tribunal, presided over by a High Court Judge, with one representative of employer and one representative of employee. The

[Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar.]

condition that I had proposed was accepted unanimously by the Board and accepted by the Labour Association, which was a party to that reference before that Court, the condition that leave should be granted at the convenience of the employer, and that leave, if refused, will be allowed to accumulate for a period of one, two or even three years, because if I refuse leave, I do not want the man to lose his leave. That safeguard must be there. The elasticity, which is the main feature of the Government and of all leave rules must be incorporated in any scheme that emerges as a result of the passing of this measure. Sir, for the reasons that I have stated above, while I am not going to oppose the motion for reference to Select Committee, I am sorry I cannot support it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the employers this time seem to have been very fortunate in obtaining a powerful advocate for their cause in the person of my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, because without trying to import any passion, without even appearing to be opposing this Bill, while only saying that he is not prepared to associate himself with it and while protesting that he is not a reactionary, he has made in effect a very reactionary speech. The purport of the whole speech of his comes to this, leave it to us and our employees and we shall settle it between ourselves as we have been settling for the last sixty years, ever since we have been making profits in our mills by keeping these workers continuously illiterate, ignorant, unorganised, incapable of looking after themselves and even unable to get over their usual absenteeism.

I do not think this Bill is really and wholly intended to be in the interest of the workers alone. It is a quasi-political measure. What prevented this Government of India from coming forward to this Assembly as long ago as 1937 itself, in order to give effect to the recommendation of the International Labour Convention? On the other hand, they came forward to us to say that they were not prepared to give effect to it. They got this House—I do not know whether it was this House or the other House—to agree with them weighted as it was on the Government side. They got the House to agree with them that effect need not be given to that convention.

Then, again, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar has volunteered the information that Government wanted to introduce this Bill and get it passed in 1942, and yet the employers were powerful enough to succeed in preventing them from introducing it. Today, why is it that the Government have come forward with this measure. It is not only because the Honourable the Labour Member is specially lucky; he happens to be lucky in having come just at this moment when the Government are anxious somehow or other to please labour to some extent and thus retain labour at its post of duty in these war times. They want to bribe everybody, they have bribed so many sections of the country and now the Government seem to think that they can bribe organised labour also. They seem to be succeeding to some extent. They have succeeded in gagging the mouth of one or two labour organisations in this country by making a very convenient monthly grant of no less a sum than Rs. 13,000. The Government are also giving bribes to others in ways which are difficult to discover but which I think in a way can be traced somewhere to Whitehall in England. There are other organisations; more and more organisations are being continually brought into existence under quasi-official inspiration in order to ply the trade of this Government in labour ranks. Not being satisfied with that, because after all these organisations are not able to hold the loyalty of all the organised labour in this country, they have found it necessary to come forward with some of these labour measures which should have been placed on the statute book long ago. They come forward with these Bills today and then ask us to admire them for their liberalism and their anxiety to serve labour by these measures.

Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar has introduced the fiction of comparing Government servants, taking the lowest of them, the *chaprassis*, with industrial labour. Does my Honourable friend remember that

the *chaprassia* under the Government are guaranteed pension and also sometimes provident fund? Does he also remember that the Government is not on a par with private individuals, that Government is continuously under the fire of public criticism whereas these private individuals are a law unto themselves and the public have no control over them and they are not even able to tell these people how to behave themselves at least in regard to their own labour? Sir, that shows quite clearly how the employers are able to bring forward such intelligent and clever advocates for them to bamboozle—I beg your pardon, Sir, I shall not use that word . . .

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You can use that word, we do not mind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We can also make a choice of words—to try to mislead even such a well informed House as this. Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar wants us to leave the employers to care for their workers. What happens if any one Group of employers or any one big individual employer refuses to give any such leave at all? Is there any control over him? It is for that reason, it is not to fetter the hands or the liberty of those progressive employers, if there are any left in this country—my Honourable friend claims to be one of them,—it is not to fetter their liberty in helping their labour to get more holidays than what are provided for here, but it is only in order to see that those reactionary and conservative minded men also behave themselves at least with a minimum of decency and humanity towards their labour that this Bill and similar measures are being proposed by the Government of India and Honourable Members on this side of the House try their best to associate themselves with any liberal minded proposal that is being brought in this House by Government or anybody else in order to help and assist labour in getting justice in this country.

My Honourable friend specially objects to workers in any concern going in a procession,—in a funeral procession,—in order to pay their last respects to a deceased worker or any one closely related to any worker. Sir, who is responsible for all these workers being dragged, induced and persuaded to leave their villages and come to distant towns? They leave all their usual social relations and they are unable to go back to their villages in order to enjoy the usual social amenities and the natural support which they get in their villages either through blood ties or social ties. It is these employers. They may say that they have not asked them to come. Well, it was not so long ago that even my Honourable friends were assisting the other friends,—the Europeans,—in invoking the aid of the indentured system in order to get labour for the plantations in Assam and other places. Similar privileges they wanted to have also. Indeed there was the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act under which the employers were able even to exercise criminal powers or were able to take advantage of the criminal law in order to take any one of their workers to task merely because he had the temerity to leave their service and go away to his village or home. Therefore, Sir, it is these people who induced these men to come away after severing their social relations in their own villages and live in the towns. And then they want to deny even this privilege of social relationship and camaraderie to the workers in a particular factory who want it in order that they may be able to stand by the worker when he is in distress or whenever he is in joy. That is an attitude which I very much deplore and regret and I hope the employers in this country will not support that kind of attitude.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi rightly stressed the necessity for the workers to have the privilege of working continuously for one year not only in one factory but in a successive number of factories whenever any necessity arises, provided of course that in any one factory he does not misbehave so badly that he comes under the censure of the magistracy or the courts that are set up under the Payment of Wages Act. But my Honourable friend Sir N. Chandavarkar does not want that privilege to be enjoyed by the workers. That is an extraordinary thing. He did not want to go into the abstract side of the conception of slavery; but I suppose he knows what is known as chattel, and he wants these workers to be tied hand and foot to one particular

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employer throughout the year, and then alone he wants that worker to enjoy this particular privilege, this very small privilege, of having seven days with pay. I do not subscribe to that view; I am in favour of the worker being given a right to leave the employer if he is dissatisfied with his conditions of employment with that employer and then go to another employer, and exercising the right to get his services under both these employers counted as continuous employment, so that at the end of the year he will be entitled to enjoy this leave with pay.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi has rightly pointed out that workers in this country are generally recruited from the rural areas, have to go over long distances to travel to their villages from their mills and so they will have to be given some special consideration so that they may have enough time to enjoy themselves or to be in the company of their own people. I agree with that and my Honourable friend Sir Narayan Chandavarkar also recognised this particular difficulty of the workers that they have to go long distances when they have to travel. Therefore that is common ground; what is not common ground is that Mr. Joshi wants this leave period to be extended; my Honourable friend, Sir Narayan Chandavarkar is not quite so sure about it, whether it can be extended at all. He says, it does not matter even if it is extended provided you leave the privilege of giving leave to the employer. I cannot agree with him. I do not want it to be the private privilege of the employer to give him leave or not; I want it to be a right to be exercised by the workers and to be conferred upon them by the State. I want this particular period to be extended, and to what extent? The Honourable Member in charge is on strong grounds when he said that the International Labour Convention has suggested that it should be at least seven days. But he did not say that it should be only seven days. It certainly does not prevent my Honourable friend from trying to extend it. After all this recommendation was made as long ago as 1936. Things are different today; organised labour is much more important in this country and the Government of India are more in need of its support, and it is but just that organised labour should be given a little more privilege than this, considering the special circumstances prevailing in this country. And my Honourable friend Sir Narayan Chandavarkar also laid stress upon that particular point that there are special circumstances in this country; but he wants to use that fact against the workers whereas I want to use it in favour of the workers. And that is for this reason. The constituents of my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar are in very large numbers working as industrial workers in Bombay. They have to take the steamer to go back to Ratnagiri which takes time, and to come back also takes time. And therefore although I would like the Honourable Member to double this particular period of holidays with leave, if he cannot do that I suggest as a minimum that he should consider the advisability of including the two days taken up by travel each way, i.e., the day he leaves and the day he reaches his village, and the same two days on his return. These four days should be added to the time that the worker can be legitimately expected to take in travelling to his home and back. That will come to eleven days and it is not very much. I hope the Honourable Member will seriously take this suggestion into consideration.

Then there is the question of whether the average pay to be paid for this holiday of seven or eleven days is enough to enable the worker to go back to his village, see his relatives, make a few small and paltry and conventional presents to them, and make them also feel happy because one of their men has gone to town and has come back with something new, introducing urban civilisation into their poor economy. Will it be enough? I say it will not be enough. Therefore I suggest that the allowance that is to be paid and the pay that is to be given to the workers should be double the average when they have earned during the previous 10 or 11 months that is prescribed under this particular Bill. It is not asking for too much; it is the minimum that any

one can ask for and I hope this war-minded Government which is having plenty of notes at its disposal will not find it so very difficult to agree to it and also to persuade these employers who are paying huge sums as excess profits tax to make this allowance to their workers.

Then there is another point that Sir N. Chandavarkar has made, that this leave shall be utilised by workers continuously on any one occasion. I do not agree with that. It must be left to the convenience of the worker as to when he wants to make use of this holiday and for how long. I do not know whether this Bill gives that privilege to the worker of utilising this holiday; not on any one occasion only in that year but on two or, if necessary, more occasions, whenever the need arises. If the Bill does not contemplate it and the Honourable Member did not have it in his mind when he was drafting this Bill, I should like him to keep it in mind and give this privilege to the workers.

Sir, there was a big point made by Sir N. Chandavarkar which I wish to oppose. He says leave should be granted to the workers at the convenience of the employers. I oppose it, and for a very good reason. He seems to think that the employer is in the same position as Government. It is not so. The employer is there in charge of his factory by virtue of the leave given to him by society as a whole and the State concerned to function as employer. He is treated by some of us as a mere trustee and nothing more. The real owners of this property are the workers, including the employers,—if of course they wish to consider themselves as workers. But surely the employers have no moral right whatsoever to flaunt their ownership and then say, "We are the lords of the whole thing here. The workers are only here at our mercy, they are to behave at our command and on our dictation" and therefore just as the

I P.M. Government today has got the right to grant or not to grant leave to its workers, we must also be allowed to enjoy the same privilege. I refuse to allow this privilege to the employers. They are mere trustees and they have not discharged their trusteeship properly till now—in fact, they do not realize that they are trustees. Therefore, it is most necessary that this privilege of deciding when and how the workers shall make use of leave with pay shall not be given to the employers.

If a worker is not able to or is unwilling to utilize his holiday with pay in any one year, he is entitled to use it in the next year. I agree with that provision in the Bill, but I want to know from the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill whether he contemplates 'tagging on' of the previous year's 7 days holiday to the next year's 7 days to which the worker is entitled, so that a worker will be able to enjoy, if he so cares to, a continuous holiday of 14 days. That will mean that at least once in two years a worker is able to go back to his village and have a grand holiday to recoup his health and come back to his work in good spirits.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): That is provided in the Bill.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am assured that it is in the Bill, and I am glad that this provision has been made.

Then, Sir, there is a lacuna in the Bill. Dr. Ambedkar places too much confidence both in the employers and in the Government of India's readiness to come forward whenever a need arises for the necessary legislation. And therefore he says that he will come forward whenever he finds it necessary to provide for the prevention of any abuse by any employers of their right to do any counting and accounting that workers have put in continuous service for 11 previous months. He himself says it is quite possible that some employers may try to dismiss the workers just a few days or weeks before a worker becomes entitled to leave. He sees that possibility, yet he does not want to make any provision for it. I can only say that it sounds rather strange in the case of an Honourable Member who is very well known for his industry, who goes to his desk and sits in his library at fixed hours. Here he comes forward like a lazy man and he has not been able to put in a little more work in adding a few lines more in order to prevent any such mischief which may

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occur in the course of a worker's career under an employer. I hope the Honourable Member will try to make the necessary provision at the Select Committee stage in order to fill this lacuna.

What is to happen to all those workers who were employed in non-perennial factories in this country before the war? There may be as many as 4 lakhs of workers working in what are known as seasonal factories as against 18 lakhs of people employed in perennial factories; that is, sugar mills, which have come into existence during the last ten years; rice mills, atta mills, and several other factories. All those places of employment have not been brought under the scope of this Factories Act and even of the few that have been brought under the scope of this Act he wants to exclude a very large class of workers from enjoying this minimum privilege. I think it is a mistake. I very strongly desire that this shall be made good and necessary provisions shall be introduced into this Bill so that those people may be able to take advantage of it. He may ask, how? I would like to proffer a suggestion for whatever it is worth, and that is if in any seasonal factory a worker is in continuous employment for not less than one month, he may be entitled to enjoy at least one holiday with pay. That will also satisfy the criterion of my Honourable friend, Sir Chandavarkar. Sir Vithal Chandavarkar does not mind whether a worker goes to his village to enjoy his earned leave, or not. So make him entitled to enjoy at least one day for every continuous period of one month service that he puts in. Now he gets a day off—Sunday—but he does not get any pay for that day. He has to make both ends meet somehow or other by his own efforts. Therefore I urge that one holiday with pay for every month of service should be provided. If it is not provided it can only mean this: These people working in seasonal factories, hailing, as they do, from villages have no organisation, and therefore this Government is not afraid to ill-treat them. I hope that is not the feeling of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill and I trust that he will take advantage of this suggestion and give them whatever help he can possibly give.

Sir, there are other speakers also who would like to make other suggestions and I do not wish to take any more time. I would only like to add that I am generally in agreement with the objects of this Bill, but that it does not go far enough, and myself and the Congress Party expect the Honourable Member to come back to this House from the Select Committee with a much better and much more favourable Bill for the workers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we support the principle of the Bill. We are always for supporting Bills which ameliorate the condition of workmen in this country. In those cases we shall not even go behind the political motive if any of the Government.

I must protest on this occasion against the prostitution of Government funds for financing labour organisations for political reasons. It is not necessary for me to say explicitly to what I refer,—I mean the giving away of Rs. 18,000 to the Trade Union Congress. The other day, an adjournment motion was moved protesting against the statement of the Honourable the Labour Member. If the Member concerned were serious we should have taken this opportunity to come and verify the facts before the Labour Member today, but, unfortunately, he is conveniently absent. I do not know what other labour organisations they are trying to corrupt.

Leaving that point aside, I want to make a few observations about the Bill itself. Section 85(a) seeks to remedy the mischief that has been done by section 48 which gives powers to the local Government to exempt holidays. Section 43(2) A (d) and (e) give power to the Local Government to exempt the holidays on Sundays which are made compulsory under section 35. We would like to know in how many factories and mills and in how many cases the Local Government have interfered in this matter, and how many labourers till today have been deprived of this weekly holiday.

In section 35A, which is the new section to be introduced, there is a lacuna. It is said that worker who deprived of any of the weekly holidays for which provision is made by sub-section (1) of that section, shall be allowed, as soon as circumstances permit, compensatory holidays of equal number to the holidays so lost. "As soon as circumstances permit", there are words which give scope for defeating the section itself. A definite period should be fixed for this compensation to come into effect. These qualifying clauses have an odd way of being used against the workmen themselves and so I would suggest that in the Select Committee a definite period be put by which they can fix the period within which the compensatory holidays will be given to them.

Secondly I come to the new Chapter 4(A) dealing with holidays with pay. We are entirely for this and I would support the suggestion of the Honourable Sir Vithal Chandavarkar that the Select Committee should fix the number of such days. I would like in this matter an all India policy to be followed rather than that there should be separate Central and Provincial policies. In this regard the Labour Commission Report has rightly said that these holidays with pay granted to workmen have the effect of improving their efficiency and their attachment to the organizations which they serve. So I would appeal to the Honourable Sir Vithal Chandavarkar that it is in their own interest that these holidays with pay be granted to workmen. As a matter of fact every employer should support this Bill.

I think that certain of the suggestions that he has made will not work in practice. He says holidays should be given at the discretion of the employer. In practical life that will be the procedure. Taking holidays at a particular time may not be in their interest or in the interests of the establishment that they serve. My view is that there won't be much of a quarrel in the actual giving of these holidays.

Another point is what my Honourable friend, Professor Ranga, referred to, that it should not be possible for any employer of labour to evade the provisions of the Bill and yet go unpunished. We owe it to this Bill to make it not only fool-proof but knave-proof.

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

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

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Before lunch, Sir, I was just saying that law should be made fool-proof or knave-proof and I said that things must be made clear that any attempts on the part of employers to deprive their workers of these holidays must be prevented by a provision under this Bill itself. Sections 60 and 61 in the Bill as sought, to be amended prescribe the penalties. There it is provided that employers will be punished if there is any contravention of section 49 B, C, D, and E., i.e., where people are entitled to this holiday with pay and where they are not given, the employers will be subject to this penalty but that does not make clear that if any employer prevents any worker from getting the right of this holiday with pay, any action against him is possible. Suppose before a year is out, after eleven months, a man is dismissed without any proper grounds, this Bill does not make the conduct of such an employer punishable. I would like, Sir, that along with G there must be a provision saying that if any attempt is made by previous dismissal without any valid reasons or otherwise, this penalty must come into force. We think that amendments are necessary to meet the few points which I have mentioned. Generally we support the principle of the Bill.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I share the opinion of some of the Members of this House that labour legislation should not be brought before the Assembly piecemeal. Ever

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since Sir Andrew Glou became the Secretary of the Labour Department (who happened to be the Secretary of the Labour Commission) Bills after Bills have been coming before the House in connection with one aspect of the Labour problem or another. I thought that the time has come, when we are considering the reconstruction of every problem, we should also consider whether we should have a fresh orientation of the entire labour problem. This problem has arisen under modern conditions. It did not exist in olden days in the order of society and the culture that then existed. There were labourers and servants in those old days but they always ate the same meal and enjoyed the same privileges as their masters and they shared with the latter all their troubles and joys. They lived as members of the same family and there was not this fight between the capitalist and labour. But in the modern civilisation, when the capitalist began to exploit labour in order to fill up his own pockets at the cost of labour, then the tug of war started. It became very serious in most countries in the West and it has now come to India as well. I know of one country at least before the Great War where this struggle between capital and labour did not exist. We talk day after day as to whether the hours of work should be 36, 49 or 42, whether strikes are permissible, if so under what conditions and whether it is or is not a punishable offence but this is doing things from the wrong end. We ought really to solve this problem in an entirely different manner. Call it nationalisation of industries or as some call it rationalisation of industries, whatever the term used, I would like the labour problem to be settled for good and that is the only way in which it can be definitely ended once for all. I am afraid the Capitalist regards himself as an alien who is there only to exploit labour, get the maximum benefit from his labour for himself and give the minimum wages to the workers. The workers should be considered as partners with the capitalists in every business. Unless labourers and capitalists are regarded as equal partners in the same firm, this struggle between Capital and Labour will go on without end. I should like very much that this problem is settled at least within our time. I do not know whether this amending Bill is an improvement or the reverse of the previous one. I say this that so long as you maintain a sharp distinction between employers and the employed, discipline or *esprit de corps* cannot be kept up. I have to face a similar problem in the University of Aligarh. So long as you treat the members of the staff as a body of servants of the governing body or the employers, the work will never be done. Pass any rule you like but the *esprit de corps* cannot be maintained. The only principle on which the problem could be solved and solved satisfactorily is to treat all the members of the staff as business partners entitled to a share in the fortunes of that particular institution. That is the only way in which you can get the maximum benefit out of them for the institution. This same principle should be adopted in all business concerns. Times are moving very fast and if we do not foresee events we will be forced to do it. This is really the origin of the Bolshevic movement, because they did not foresee that trouble was coming. Whenever you start a business you must have a capitalist, unless the Government takes place of the capitalist. I am not in favour of destroying the capitalist. I think they have their place and they have their utility and they are the integral part of the development of the country. Let them be there. Then we want expert managers, we want expert advice and we want the workers but these workers ought to be treated as co-partners. Let the worker have his living wage. Let the capitalist have the bank rate of interest, *viz.*, 3 per cent. It is the minimum which they must get and it should be considered as a part of the expenditure before any profit is declared. Let the Managing Agent also have a living wage according to his standard of living. The Congress has already fixed Rs. 500 as the maximum salary of any person in office, and in the absence of any suggestion I would follow the lead, that Rs. 500 should be the salary of every managing agent, plus furnished house and a motor. I do not stick to this figure of Rs. 500, but I say there should be a living

wage for all according to their standard of living. Similarly you must calculate according to the standard of living a minimum wage for labourers: in certain localities it may be Rs. 10 and in other localities it may be Rs. 75, but you must give a minimum living wage.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is a living wage?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Wage that is sufficient to provide clothing, shelter, and food and the necessaries of life for himself and his family—that is what I call a living wage. Pay the labourer at the market rate as you pay your clerks or managers and other persons engaged in that business. Afterwards you put down by means of compromise a schedule that whatever profit is made, it will be shared in certain proportions—say every labourer will be entitled to get one pie or half a pie in the rupee, and every clerk will be entitled to so much and the managing agents will get so much, and the capitalists and share holders so much. The proportion will be fixed in the articles of association, and whatever profit is made will be distributed equitably. In that case the owners or capitalists and the managing directors and every person connected with the industry will have a share and an interest in the industry. Nobody will ask “How many hours have you worked?” The workman knows that if he works more he will get more and will be inclined to do more work. We have the experience of the cottage industries—there the people work for about 12 hours a day—the whole family works and do not grudge it because it is their own work and they are not responsible to any one and whatever profit is made comes to them and is not taken away by somebody else. But if you keep labour in the nature of indentured labour, not free, and you only require them to work without giving them the full value for the work extracted from them, then there is a very different feeling; and so long as that feeling is there and there is this difference between capital and labour, then it will end either in chaos or in some kind of Government interference which I cannot describe at the present moment. I think, therefore, that it is very desirable that we should establish this principle. In some factories it has been established. In one case at least I noticed that the labourer and the capitalist had become co-sharers in the development of the factory and the profits were divided in a particular proportion among all persons responsible for the production in that mill. . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You have not said who should control that industry.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Capitalists and labourers jointly being co-partners.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My friend asks me “who is going to control that particular industry?” Take coal for example, which is now before us. I have not studied this problem of coal on the spot but from what I have heard I have come to the conclusion that the trouble between employer and labour is mostly responsible for shortage of coal. Some people say the coal is not there. That is wrong. The coal is there and I think they have enough coal to keep us going for a sufficiently long time to come. The transport difficulties are there no doubt, but they are not insurmountable. The shortage of coal is not due to short of wagons, as people sometimes make it out to be, but it is due to the fact that the owners of those mines do not like that the coal should be lifted: the proprietors think that if coal is lifted now, nothing would be left to them and they do not like that. They want more money for less quantity. That is one of the difficulties. The second is that they do not pay proper wages and persons who have worked there for some time have left owing to the absence of good wages. . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This is a Bill for the payment of holidays—for paid holidays!

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I started with the idea of a general discussion: It is my friend who is responsible for asking this question: I am merely answering his question; I never intended to bring up the question of coal now: I am merely giving it as an illustration. I gave notice of a Resolution which unfortunately was not balloted—that we should nationalise the coal industry in

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the interests of the development of industries in the country. As for control, I would like to leave the control as it is; but if it becomes unmanageable or if it works against the interests of the people, the Government of the day will have to step in and nationalise or rationalise the entire industry. I do not think the question of control is of great importance now. It will assume importance only if a group of industrialists engaged in the same industry form a combiné and try to exploit the consumers to a larger extent. So long as there is no combination of industrialists among themselves, as there is in some cases, and which I would very much like to explain on the floor of the House one day, it does not matter. But if it does occur, the government will have to step in.

I say again that we ought to work in such a manner that the interests of capital and labour go hand in hand and there ought to be no trouble between labour

Mr. D. S. Joshi (Government of India: nominated Official): On a point of order, Sir: that does not arise from the general principles of this Bill.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: As this is the first time this Bill has come before us and goes to Select Committee, I am rather entitled to discuss the general purpose behind this Bill. When it comes back from the Select Committee then I cannot. We ought to proceed and finish this quarrel between labour and capital, because we must remember that whenever the difficulties increase, it is the experience in every country that labour will always win and the capitalists will not: they may win for a certain length of time, but the ultimate success will be in the hands of labour because they are larger in number and have more votes in parliamentary and other elections. I think it is very desirable that we ought to create a situation in which these two will go hand in hand. Talking of reconstruction, there is the question of unemployment which comes in—it is also a labour problem. There is no question of unemployment as far as the capitalists are concerned. Therefore this question is also very peculiar to them and this ought to be taken into consideration so that the factories should employ the maximum number with good wages. Therefore I say again that this question should be considered from a broader point of view, either in this connection or later, on and I hope the Honourable Member for Labour, who represents both capital and labour, will be in a position to solve this question. I say 'capital and labour' because on one side he spends 20 crores of rupees in buildings which even an ordinary capitalist cannot do and he is also the representative of labour.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Which clause of the Bill are you referring to?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This is general discussion of the policy. We are not discussing the Bill clause by clause. The Labour Member should be able to tackle this problem and in view of the fortunate position in which he is placed, I hope he will tackle this problem and bring in this question of reconstruction of the future policy in regard to industries after the war.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My task has been considerably lightened by the fact that there has been general support given to the motion which I have made in regard to this Bill and therefore in the course of the reply which I propose to make to the debate, I shall be very brief.

I had better say something straightaway with regard to the speech of my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. What I propose to say is this—that I really do not propose to say anything about what he has said and I hope he would not take it as an act of discourtesy to him, because what he has said, if I may say so, has really very little to do with the Bill which is under discussion. He has propounded a novel theory of solving the labour problem—namely partnership. I am sure that we are greatly benefited by the elucidation which he has given of this new ideology, and I can assure him that when the problem of our constitutional structure comes before us for discussion what he has said undoubtedly would be a matter of great use and

benefit not only to myself but to all those who will be engaged on that problem.

Coming to the other speakers. I first propose to deal with the observation which fell from my friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar. He referred to the Resolution which was moved by Sir Frank Noyce in this House with regard to the International Convention dealing with holidays with pay: I did not, if I may say so, succeed in catching exactly the point that he wanted to make by reference to that speech but I understood him to convey the fact that the Government of India had changed front.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar:-No, no.

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: That in 1936 they were opposed to it, while now they are prepared to give recognition to the principle contained in that Convention. I do not think that there has been any change in the position of the Government of India. I have read the debate with some care and attention and I am quite satisfied that the reason which led the Government of the day to oppose the Convention was because of the understanding that if a convention has to be recognised it must be recognised as a whole. It could not be recognised in part and the Government of India, as it was then advised, felt that it was impossible, having regard to the circumstances of this country, to accept the convention as a whole and although therefore they were prepared to accept the principle and also prepared to investigate the possibilities of applying it in some limited manner they could take no other course than the one which was open to them under the circumstances which then prevailed.

Now, my friend Mr. Joshi has made some points in the course of his speech. Two of his points, I must admit, are points of substance. The first point that he made was that although we were limiting the scope of the Bill we have limited it to a factory and we have not agreed to extend the principle at least to an industry. As I said, I admit that this is a point of substance but I must at the same time point out that to have applied it to an industry means that it would be necessary for us to devise some method by which we could pool the resources of those concerns which come under one particular industry. Now, although as I said, I have the fullest sympathy with the point which he has made, it is not possible for us at the present moment, without any experience behind us, to work out a pool system by which all factories within a particular industry could be made to share the cost of broken holidays earned by different employees in different factories arising out of broken periods of service in different factories. And this is the reason why it has not been possible to make the thing applicable to industry as a whole.

The second point which Mr. Joshi made was the complaint that the holiday period provided in the Act is too short. I also admit that there is considerable force in that. 7 days is in fact too short a holiday but there again I am confronted with another difficulty, which difficulty is a difficulty which I am sure both Mr. Joshi as well as Sir Vithal Chandavarkar have to admit. The difficulty arises on account of the desultory character of our labour. Labour, as Mr. Joshi and Sir Vithal Chandavarkar both know, take long holidays for a variety of reasons and consequently the absenteeism which is prevalent on account of this habit does really complicate the matter very much. If our labour was induced or was trained to give continuous service in a factory for a larger number of days than they have been doing now, I should be quite prepared to admit that the case for extension of the holiday beyond the period that we have fixed would undoubtedly be very strong but I hope that the fact that we have given seven days' holiday would have its indirect effect on the labouring and working classes of this country who will realise that if they did render more continuous service than they have been doing, they would be making stronger the case for the extension of the holiday beyond the period of seven days but as the situation stands, I think it would not be justifiable to go beyond the prescribed period of seven days which, if I may say so, is also the period which was recommended by the Convention.

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Then, Sir, another point that was made with regard to the same question was with relation to the application of the Act to non-perennial factories, a point that was made by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga on the other side. To that point also my reply is the same, namely, that the provision for 7 days paid holiday is made to those workmen who are not getting a sufficiently long rest, if I may use that phrase. Now, a non-perennial factory is a factory where people do get long period of rest. It may be that it is a case of involuntary employment, but I am not looking at it from the point of view of employment or unemployment. So far as the Bill is concerned, we are looking at it from the point of view of rest and so far as the non-perennial factories are concerned, the workmen certainly get a sufficiently long period of rest so that it cannot be said that in their case there is as much necessity for a paid holiday of 7 days as it is in the case of the perennial factories.

Then, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar raised a point with regard to the words 'at least' in one of the amending clauses. He expressed the fear that having regard to the use of the words 'at least' in one of the amending clauses it would be possible for Provincial Governments to direct that the factory-owners may be compelled to give more than 7 days. - Now, I would like to convey the assurance that has been given to me by my legal advisers that under the amended section, as it stands, it would not be possible for the Provincial Governments to compel an employer to give more than 7 days' holiday. Another point which was made by Sir Vithal Chandavarkar was that this was a premature measure and that, in his opinion, this measure should come last; certainly it should come, according to his judgment, not before the Sickness Insurance Act which Government is contemplating and thinking about. I personally beg to differ from and if I had time I would have given some arguments in support of my contention. I would invite him to read the observations of Professor Adarkar in his report on health insurance for industrial workers which occur on page 112 where he will find some very strong arguments which he has produced in order to show that the holidays with pay is a measure which is so integrally connected with sickness insurance that if an order of precedence was to be framed it would be necessary to give priority to the measure relating to holidays with pay before social insurance. As I said, the report is now available to the Members of the Legislature and I will not take the time of the House in repeating what has been said by Professor Adarkar on this point.

Then, Sir, another point which has been raised on both sides is the question whether a measure like this should be compulsory or voluntary. So far as the Bill is concerned, I think it strikes a very happy mean inasmuch as the Bill, while making obligatory by law to provide holidays with pay for workmen who render a certain length of service, has left it open for voluntary agreement between the employers and the employees. - As Honourable Members must have seen, there is a clause in the Bill which says that if Government is satisfied that a measure of holidays with pay substantially similar to the one which has been contained in the provisions of this Bill is introduced voluntarily by an employer and the Government is satisfied of its efficacy, Government has been giving power to exempt a factory from the obligations in this Act. I find that the position in Great Britain is also similar in this matter. Under the British system, there is a Holidays with Pay Act of 1938 and 2,800,000 people are covered by it. The rest of them, namely, 5 millions, get it under voluntary agreement, not under the Act, and 4,000,700 get under what is called a long-standing custom.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Where is the provision whereby an employer can postpone giving that leave?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am coming to that.

Now, Sir, one other point I wanted to deal with, as I said, was this compulsory versus voluntary.

The other point that was raised by my friend Prof. Ranga and also by Mr. Chettiar was that we have made no specific provision against an employer entering into an unfair practice whereby he would discharge an employee in order to prevent him from earning his holiday. To that point I had referred in my opening speech when I made the motion and I said that while Government is aware that certain practices may develop, Government does not think that they ought to take any action straightaway. Government would prefer to wait and watch and see which side resorts to what sort of strategem in order to over-reach the other side. But, as I said, if there is a strong feeling on the point and those who represent labour are able to convince the Select Committee that it is necessary straightaway to have a provision entered into the Act itself to prevent any such practices, it will be open to them to move and get it through. Government does not regard that as a matter of principle and will not stand in the way of the thing being done in the Select Committee.

The other point which has been raised is whether this question of leave should be entirely made dependent upon the wishes of the employee, namely, that the employee should have a right to determine from what date and at what time he should exercise his holiday. Now, we have deliberately made no provision in the Bill for that and we have left it to the Provincial Governments to make rules to regulate what should be done with regard to that particular point. I think it would be desirable in an experiment of this kind not to tie down everything by statute. It would be better if the matter was left to be regulated by rules for which the Bill authorises the Provincial Governments to make, because, as the House knows, it is much easier to change a rule than to change a statute. But as I said, if the parties to this Bill who are concerned and affected do desire that this should be made the subject-matter of a statute, it will again be open to the Select Committee to do so.

I do not think there is any point raised by any Honourable Member which I have not covered and I therefore do not propose to say anything more in support of the motion I have made.

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934 (*Second Amendment*) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Mr. R. R. Gupta, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. D. S. Joshi, and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN RICE COMMITTEE BILL.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, Sir F. E. James, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, the Bill before the House follows lines with which the Central Legislature has become very familiar. It seeks to impose a duty of excise, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the establishment of a Fund to finance in this case the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products: and it sets up a Committee to administer the fund on lines laid down. We already have similar Committees in respect of cotton, lac, jute, coffee, tea and coconuts. Indeed the present Bill is almost word for word a replica of the Indian Coconut Committee Bill which was passed by the Legislature during the last Budget Session.

From many points of view, rice is the most important crop grown in India. In point of area, it is our largest single crop; more than one third of the entire

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acreage in food grains is under rice. It is the most important single article of food in the country, the staple diet of a majority of the population: and as about two-fifths of the total crop, comes, in one form or another, into the market, its importance as a cash crop is also great. Not only is it our most important food crop, but as was demonstrated last year, the rice-eating population is on the whole much less adaptable in times of food shortage than those whose principal staple is, shall we say, wheat or ragi, and anything that seriously affects the quantity of rice available is apt to have repercussions much more serious and immediate than a comparable shortage in any other foodstuff. This is the more important because, of course, India has not for many years been self-sufficient in the production of rice. We were latterly in peace time an importer to the extent of an average of about two million tons a year and if the optimum nutritional requirements of the rice-eating population were taken into account, the shortage of rice would be even greater.

Again, as every one knows, our population is increasing and it is in the rice consuming areas where generally speaking the pressure of population is heaviest that the rate of increase is highest. Finally it is common ground among nutrition authorities that India must develop her protective foods,—milk, vegetables, fruits, poultry, fish, eggs, etc., and this can only be done if much more land is made available for these foods. Everything, therefore, points to the necessity of producing more cereals on less land,—in other words, greatly increasing the offtake per acre under food crops. Our yields of rice are low compared with yields in many other countries and I have not the least doubt,—I think no one has the least doubt,—that given proper facilities and improved knowledge it can be done. We can raise much more rice on the same amount of land as is under rice at present,—but it can only be done as a result of intensive research and vigorous development. I hope the House will forgive me for making these somewhat elementary remarks which are directed to showing not only the importance of the rice crop to India but also the need for very early action to increase it and improve it.

Now, I may be asked why the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research should not do all that is necessary in this matter, and why there is need for a separate Committee. Well, Sir, in the first place, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research does not derive any revenue at all from rice. In spite of that, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has, during the past twelve years, inspired and stimulated and financed much valuable work on rice. Progress has been made both in the evolution of better yielding varieties and in the improvement of methods of cultivation. Work is going on now to extend the area under these important types of seed and to work out manurial and cultural schedules for the cultivator, because the requirements differ so much in different localities that no single Schedule or indeed no small number of schedules will suffice. But these and many other fields of investigation have still been quite insufficiently explored. Much more research is necessary if the Agricultural Departments are to be placed in a position to give the cultivator the advice and help which the importance of the crop warrants. For example, fundamental research is needed into such matters as the inheritance, in the rice plant, of certain agricultural and botanical characters; the factors which induce drought-resistance, flood-resistance, soil-resistance, disease-resistance; rice plant nutrition, the changes which take place during storage—very little is really known about these factors which affect quality; technological aspects, such as removal of the various seed coats, polishing, and the relation of these to the nutritional properties of the grain. And when results in these and other fields have been established, the work will be only half done until adequate steps are to be taken to induce the cultivator to adopt the discoveries of the laboratory. Not long ago it was estimated that only about six per cent. of the area under rice in India was under improved varieties. Development on these lines is apt to be very slow work; it calls for

demonstration and propagandā and, above all, for continuous and systematic pursuit of the policy laid down; and all this calls for money. Now, with its attention divided and its resources stretched to cover a very wide field of agricultural and veterinary research, the I. C. A. R. simply has not got the funds to do for any single crop what we now consider necessary for rice. That is why at its meeting in November last year the Rice Committee of the I. C. A. R. advised that rice research, development and technology should be put on a more permanent basis, both in the interest of the country as a whole and of the large elements of the people that live on rice. The Rice Committee, which is a small committee but representative of both growers and trade and industry, recommended the establishment of an Indian Central Rice Committee to do generally for rice what the Indian Central Cotton Committee has done.—I think it will be admitted, with conspicuous success,—for cotton. It advised that the Committee should be furnished with funds, either by Government grant or, failing that, by a levy at a low rate on rice milled in the factories. The Government of India's Agricultural Policy Committee (a Reconstruction Committee) which met in Simla in June of this year favoured the establishment of commodity committees for all the important crops of India including, of course, the food crops. We had already been thinking along these lines in the department; and this short history supplies the origin of this Bill.

As I have remarked already, there are precedents for giving a committee of this kind a settled and comparatively stable source of revenue in the form of an excise on the commodity in question. In the planning of research it is of prime importance that the financial position should be stable and known with reasonable accuracy for some years ahead. This cannot be achieved by dependence on the budgetary position which fluctuates from year to year; it can only be achieved either by means of a very large endowment or by the allocation of a separate and permanent source of revenue. Some of our statutory bodies like the I. C. A. R. derive their funds wholly or partly from a duty on exports. That would not of course be a significant source of revenue in the case of rice, and we have in the Bill before the House accordingly followed the precedents of the Coconut Committee and, partially, of the Cotton Committee itself. These two are respectively financed wholly or partly by an excise on the agricultural product brought for processing in the mills.

Now, Sir, I am prepared to hear it suggested that this proposal amounts to an imposition on food, and the poor man's food at that. I would, however, remind the House that only about 27 per cent. of the rice produced in India is hulled in rice mills; the poor man does not generally consume milled rice. The classes that consume milled rice will be the classes that will bear the cost of this Committee. At the maximum rate proposed in the Bill, six annas a ton, which is less than one pice per maund, the burden works out, I am told, at one anna per annum for each member of a rice-eating family. An excise at this rate would, we calculate, bring in a return of 24 lakhs gross. We should have to deduct the costs of collection. Though one Provincial Government has expressed a doubt whether such a sum would be adequate, I feel we could do something for rice with 24 lakhs a year, which is about twice the income at present received by the I. C. A. R. from its export duty.

The composition of the committee will be a matter on which the Select Committee, if the House appoints one, may be expected to have its say. But I should like very briefly to touch on the principles underlying the proposals in this behalf embodied in the Bill. As set out in the Bill, the Committee will total 51 persons,—a large figure, but it is difficult to cut it down while giving representation to all the interests that are affected. The House will see that growers on the one side and the industry on the other are evenly matched with 14 members each, distributed roughly according to the importance of the crop or the industry in each province. There is provision for expert agricultural and research talent and provision also,—though not by that name,—for representation of consumers, in so far as these are not already

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growers, traders and experts. But we have not specified, as I say, how the consumer will be represented. The growers, trade and industry were all represented on the I. C. A. R. Commodity Committee on whose recommendation this Bill has been promoted. The proposals have been circulated to provincial Governments which all concurred in the proposals generally and some useful suggestions were put forward which largely figure in the Bill. It is only right that I should add that one provincial Government, the Government of Bihar has subsequently reconsidered its view and withdrawn its support on the ground—I will quote letter—"that rice is not a valuable commercial crop and that in these circumstances the cost of research for its improvement should more properly be supported by ordinary revenues and not by the levy of a special tax as proposed."

As against this I hope the House will bear in mind what I have said about the smallness of the burden and the entire absence of any burden in respect of about 73 per cent. of the rice crop which never goes to the mills at all, and also that the other ten Provincial Governments and the four central administrations agree with the Government of India that the proposals are desirable and should be pursued.

I have moved for a Select Committee. We are anxious to get the Bill through as soon as possible and to get the committee constituted and at work before another paddy season begins. I see there are a number of amendments suggesting circulation by various dates. I shall endeavour to keep an open mind until I have heard the arguments developed. In the meantime I cannot help wishing that my motion had come up after, rather than at an early stage of, the food debate. Already in that debate an amendment has been moved referring to the urgency of increasing rice production. I only mention it because I hope that Honourable Members who are thinking on those lines will agree to get this committee set up at an early date and therefore support reference to select committee.

Sir, I move.

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

"That the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Saed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, Sir F. E. James, Mr. Hossainbhoy A. Lalljee, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1946."

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

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1946."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945."

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

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I fully appreciate the main object of this Bill. I entirely agree that a systematic effort should be made to expand the yield of rice and to improve its quality. It is a pity that a systematic effort has not been made so far. That shows the shortsightedness of the Government, and it is most unfortunate that it is only after the occurrence of a most disastrous famine that the eyes of the Government have opened. But, Sir, although I welcome the object of this Bill I cannot lend my support to some of its provisions. The provisions relating

to finding the fund for this purpose does not appear to me to be quite sound. Rice is the most important staple food of this country and the cost of the expansion of its yield and improvement of its quality should be borne on the general revenues of the country. The analogy of a cess on tea or coffee or sugarcane does not hold good in the present case. Those are articles which people could do without, but people of large parts of the country cannot do without rice. Therefore, Sir, I submit that Government would have acted wisely if they had set apart a substantial sum of money for research work on the expansion of yield and the improvement of quality of rice.

What will be the effect of levy of this cess? I think the producer or the consumer—perhaps both the producer and the consumer—will be affected. Is it desirable that the producer of rice, who is a very poor man, should be taxed and is it desirable that the consumer who also is in most cases a poor man should be burdened for the most staple article of his food? I do not think it is desirable.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, the mover of this motion, suggested that it will not add much to the burden of the producer or the consumer. I agree with him to that extent that the burden is not much, but still there will be some burden and it is my submission that this burden should not be imposed.

Then comes the question of representation on the committee which is provided in this Bill. The composition of this committee appears to me to be very unsatisfactory because it is packed with Government servants and Government nominees. If we look at the composition, we find that the producers of rice will have to depend for their representation on Government nomination, and the consumers have not been granted any representation at all. As regards the trade and industry—the rice trade and the rice industry—the representation does not go far enough. Therefore, Sir, I suggest that it would be wise on the part of the Government to reconsider this matter and bring forward a better Bill.

Coming to the details, I suggest that the growers' representatives should not be nominated. If there are no Associations of Growers in any part of the country then it would be better that they should be represented through commercial bodies—Chambers of Commerce or other similar bodies. It would be better still if associations of growers are formed to whom representation may be given. I also consider the representation of the different provinces to be unsatisfactory. The production of rice in Bengal is larger than the production in any other province. It is twice as much as the production of Madras and the production of rice in Bengal is one-third of the total production of the whole country. Therefore I urge that greater representation should be given to the Bengal growers, the Bengal industry and the Bengal trade in rice. This principle of giving greater representation to provinces which deserve greater representation has been recognised with reference to the other articles such as sugarcane, tea, coffee and coconuts.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: In this regard, may I point out that the Honourable Member's province is getting the biggest number on the committee—seven?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: I admit that somewhat greater representation has been given to Bengal, but not to the extent which the importance of the province demands. As regards nomination, I have already submitted that this should be done away with so far as possible. If the consumers cannot be given any other sort of representation let there be some representatives on this body from the Central Legislature. Sir, if all these things are done then some of the objectionable provisions of the Bill would be removed and the Bill would be made more satisfactory.

Finally, I would suggest that the functions of this Committee should be expanded. It is not clear whether the Committee will confine its activities only to research work or will go further and take other measures for the improvement of rice. That also should be made clear, and if these objections which I have raised are met I will support this Bill. But for the

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present I am not quite sure that I am able to lend my full support to this measure.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: At first sight and on first thoughts I was inclined to support the main object behind this Bill. But on thinking more carefully, I am also anxious to see that Government will withdraw this Bill and bring forward a more satisfactory Bill as my honourable friend, Dr. Banerjee, has suggested. In the hope that Government may enjoy a certain amount of flexibility of mind, I have suggested here that the Bill should be sent into circulation and brought back again before the prescribed date so that they may be able to obtain views of all the interests concerned, and then in the light of those opinions they may be willing to redraft this Bill and then ask the leave of the House to withdraw this Bill and come forward with another Bill.

Sir, the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill has made it perfectly clear that so far as this Government is concerned in regard to this Bill it was not thinking primarily or even incidentally of the producers and their interests but it was only thinking of the general public, whatever it may mean, and the great body of consumers who have to live upon rice. I can easily see why they are concentrating upon these two sections of the people. Today the country has suddenly become aware of a serious deficit of food supply in this country and consumers in towns and other places also have become victims to the profiteering that is going on in different parts of the country, encouraged by this Government and carried on through various middlemen. Therefore, there is a clamour on every side for more and more food and that too at lower and lower prices, so that everybody can have enough and also at lower cost. They want to take advantage of this general prevailing atmosphere and come forward here in this House and plead not in the interests of the peasants that this Bill is being introduced but in the interests of the consumers whose interests seem to be very much prominent in the counsels of this Government at this present juncture. I would have liked the Government to come forward with a better Bill than this primarily with the intention of helping, assisting and developing the interests of the producers, but that does not seem to be the case of the Government today.

Then, Sir, I am opposed to the very essential financial basis on which this Bill is framed. My honourable friend, who is in charge of this Bill, told us that there have been very many precedents and he has quoted the formation of various crop committees that we have had in this country from cotton to lac and so on. If there is a precedent, and I admit there is one, and it has been based on wrong financial basis, it is my business here and the business of the Members on this side of the House to oppose that precedent and to make it necessary for this Government and also for the country to work on different principles.

Sir, even in regard to the principle that I wish to suggest there are precedents. First of all, let me say on what principle I want the Government to go ahead in regard to these crop committees. The Honourable Member said that the Agricultural Policy Committee for Reconstruction has already suggested that there must be crop committees for all staple products of this country. I want committees for all these staple products but I do not want them to be established on similar financial basis. And why? It is for this reason. I said that this Government which owes its responsibilities towards purchasers as well as consumers and the general public does not want to contribute even a pie to the finances of a Committee like this and wants to shift its responsibility on the producers and the consumers and place the burden of financing all such operations on the slender shoulders of the peasants. They say this is not going to be very much. It may be so but we would like more money to be collected, more money to be placed at the disposal of this committee and in future times to come if we are going to have our say at all in the future counsels of this country, we are going to see that such committees

will come into possession not of such meagre funds but ten times and even twenty times as much funds. Therefore any sort of levy that is going to be raised will fall upon the peasants. And more so in the future, because as my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar has just now told me, at the end of this war there will again be foreign imports of rice coming into this country and the price of rice and paddy is bound to fall. And then it will be for the peasants to bear not only the lower price but also the additional incidence of such a levy as has to be levied under this particular Bill. Sir, when I am ready to ask the future Government also to levy even bigger cesses upon the producers of the staple products, why is it, it may be asked, that I am today opposed to this particular levy? It is for this reason. What is the contribution that the Government of India wishes to make for the financing of this committee as well as such other committees that may come into being. Does the Government of India come forward and propose that they are going to contribute just as much, if not twice or thrice, as the growers are going to be made to pay in order to finance this committee? Why should not Government come forward with such a proposal? It is not an unreasonable thing and there is a precedent for it. There is organised labour in this country. Very many benefit schemes are being organised here for it in this country. Many Provincial Governments have legislated for maternity benefits. The Provincial Governments have come forward to make their contribution too. Look at the example of England. There in many labour schemes like unemployment insurance and health insurance the Government comes forward to contribute at least as much as the workers and also the employers are contributing. Even here in this country in regard to Government employees and also with regard to those employed in the local bodies, Government have constituted what are known as provident funds and Government offers to contribute its own portion to these funds. Why is it that Government, when it is ready to make these contributions to these small sections of our population, is not prepared to make a similar offer of help and assistance and encouragement to the rice-growers of this country? I agree with my Honourable friend when he said that the rice-producing industry in this country is one of the biggest and we have as much as 80 million acres of land under rice. The producers of rice in this country number the largest among all our producers. What is it that this Government has done for them and what can this Government show as its own record of having done anything at all for these people. When these peasants were suffering from very low prices during the last economic depression what did this Government do? It was then that my Honourable friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, who at that time was on this side of this House, had to get up and ask this Government (and in vain, since he could not succeed then) to impose a protective duty on rice imports from Burma, Siam and other countries. It was after a lot of struggle and trouble that when we the Congress Party came into this House, in cooperation with our friends on this side of the House that we were able to convince this Government and force them to impose a minimum protective duty in order to keep up the bottom for the rice prices and paddy prices. Government cannot very well lay claim to any sort of credit on this account. Now the Honourable Member comes forward and says that the I. C. A. R. has been doing so much but it has not sufficient funds. Whose fault is it that it has not got sufficient funds? It is the fault of this Government. If they had only accepted or adopted the principle that I am now suggesting, *viz.*, to whatever money the I. C. A. R. collects from the duties imposed upon the exports of our own agricultural produce the Government also will be ready to contribute just as much to its revenues, certainly it would have been possible for the I. C. A. R. to finance many more schemes of research and development of rice than it has been able to do. I have no grievance with the I. C. A. R. It has done excellent work in this country. I want more and more money for it. While I myself and the late Mr. Satyapurthi of revered memory were on the Public Accounts Committee we tried

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our best to prevent the then Finance Member as well as other people concerned from putting many more impediments in the way of the I. C. A. R. so that they might build up, sufficient reserve funds from out of the savings of the funds that were granted them by this Government. I want more money for the I. C. A. R. and I hope the Honourable Member in charge will keep it in mind and on the next occasion he will come forward with the adoption of this principle that the Government will pay at least as much to the I. C. A. R. as it is able to get today by independent means.

Sir, what are the objects for which this Bill has been brought forward. Are they wide enough? I have had talks with one or two responsible Members concerned with this Bill on the other side. They have told me that they are wide enough and that they can be made more wide also in the Select Committee, if only I and others would be good enough to come into it. Those on the other side have been paid all this time and they have been expected to go into this matter as carefully as possible keeping the interests of the growers in their mind. What did they do? They completely ignored the interests of the growers. Naturally one could not have expected them to give as much attention to this very essential and important aspect of the interest of the growers of rice as one could have expected from a representative Government.

This Government seems to be working in water-tight compartments, if not air-tight compartments. There was one gentleman, a worthy gentleman, who was sent to America to represent this Government at the Hot Springs Food Conference. There is another gentleman here who does not seem to know the work that that gentleman has done there and what are the results of the work of that gentleman there. Sir, here is a report of the conference and I do not know whether the Honourable Member will supply every one in this House with a copy. This was not a conference of the Governments of the United Nations held in the interests of the peasants. It was held in the interests of the consumers. It was held in the interests of the big businessmen, those capitalists who are anxious to have our raw products at the lowest possible price. It was held in the interest of those big manufacturers of the West, to enable them to establish an international grain pool, so that they can always procure foodgrains at lower and lower prices. Even in that conference the interest of the peasant seems to have been considered, much more satisfactorily and to a much greater extent than this Government seems to be anxious to consider. The Government suggest in this Bill that this duty and the funds from it shall be utilised in order to develop research, in order to develop the rice trade and in order to develop more production of rice. All these things have been thought of only in order to see that on less land with less labour we will be able to produce more rice than what we are able to produce now, so that more land can be placed at the disposal of what are known as protective foods or protective crops. But what happens to these poor growers who will be displaced when less land is put under rice? You will say

4 P.M. "Oh, they will be switched on to the production of fruit." May be so; but have you taken sufficient care.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order. Adjournment motion. Bhai Parmanand.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

SIND GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON CHAPTER XIV OF SATYARTH PRAKASHA

Bhai Parmanand (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.....

Honourable Members: We cannot hear you.....

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Will the Honourable Member speak up? He may come nearer, if he likes.

Bhai Parmanand: I move that the House do adjourn in order to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, *vis.*, the Sind Government's order banning

one chapter of the Satyarth Prakasha—the 14th Chapter—in the interest of security and public peace. On the very beginning I want to remove the impression that I am going to bring in any religious matter. My basic contention is a legal or constitutional. I think that this order of Sind Government is not justified by any constitutional or legal principle. This order purports to be issued under the Defence of India Rules for the public safety and the public interest while the fact is that the banning has nothing to do with these. I shall read what the Act says. In the preamble it is said:—

“This section shall come into force at once and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force in such areas and on such date as the Central Government may by notification in the official gazette specify.”

And further on—

“Wherever an emergency has arisen which renders it necessary to provide for special measures to ensure the public safety and interest and the defence of British India and for the control of such offences.”

This is the real object of the Defence of India Act and I cannot see how the Defence of India Act can apply to the banning in the case of a book, which has not endangered the safety or public interest in any way. There was no evidence for it, otherwise the Sind Government ought to have given us their reasons for it. This action of Sind Government cannot be justified by any rule under the Defence of India Act.....

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): What is the ordinance to which my friend is referring? Is it an order or an ordinance?

Bhai Parmanand: The Sind Government's ban on one chapter of Satyarth Prakasha under the Defence of India Rules.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: That is an order, not an ordinance.

Bhai Parmanand: It may be so. Again, this order under the Defence of India Act was to extend only during the continuance of the war and for six months after that war. What does this ban mean? Is this going to continue during the war and six months thereafter or will it continue even after that six months period is over? Now is it possible for this Act to apply to the case of banning of the book? This book deals only with a religious matter. There is another question whether under the Defence of India Act we can deal with old religious books. My idea is that religion has to be kept free of this Defence of India Act and its rules, how is that the Sind Government applies these rules to the religious book or any one chapter of it? This one chapter is of course a criticism on Islam, but there are other chapters that give us criticism on other religions as well. Whenever the founder of a new religion, or a sect starts his movement, he cannot do so by his command, he has to propagate his new theories and generally to criticise those, which are already current. Swami Dayanand, the writer of this book, had to do the same. His criticism has got one single motive, and that is the reform of all religions and of the Hindu religion as well. That is the object. Surely, there was not the least abuse of any person or of any great man or of any great religion. I am sorry that I am not well and I cannot say all that I wanted to say.....

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member will proceed with his speech.

Bhai Parmanand: I am trying to do so.

The book has been in the market for the past seventy years—from 1875 in Hindi, and then it was printed in Urdu from 1940, perhaps much before this, showing that it was read by people—learned men of Islam and of other religions, who had open discussions with Swami Dayanand himself. The Punjab, particularly Lahore, was the centre of such discussions. Maulana Zafar Ali is here and he will bear witness to the fact that for many years there were discussions and controversies among the leaders of several religions in Lahore, Rawalpindi and other places but there was no bad spirit. Of course in these discussions which were attended by thousands, each one had to explain his own view and defend his own point. It is quite strange that after such a long time the Sind Government has come to discover that it was a source of danger

[Bhai Parmanand.]
to public peace. It is quite true that there was criticism and criticism had to be made by every writer on religious subjects. Sometimes it is urged that the *Satgarth Prakash* is not a religious book of the Arya Samajists because it is not revealed. It is true that the Arya Samajists did not revere it because of any revelation. They think it is the best logical book which they have adopted as their religious or sacred book of their faith, and it is not in any way, right or proper for the Government of Sind to ban its publication or printing without rhyme or reason. As I am not feeling well and shaking, with these simple words, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.

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

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, my friend Bhai Parmanand, the Mover of the motion, deserves my thanks for having given us an opportunity of discussing such an important matter, which has created a great stir in the Muslim community throughout the length and breadth of India and which but for the motion moved by my friend could not have been debated in this House.

Sir, it is most unfortunate that Bhai Sahib should have come forward to condemn the action of the Government of Sind, which deserves the appreciation of not only the Mussalmans of the country but of all those sections who call themselves lovers of the country and advocate unity amongst different sections in India. Those who have read the 13th and particularly the 14th chapters of this book, however holy and sacred they may be for my friend, Bhai Parmanand and those of his views, will honestly come to the conclusion that such a writing cannot be ascribed to a reformer like Swami Dayanand. It is alleged that this is an addition made by some of his followers after his death. The truth of this allegation (An Honourable Member: "What is your authority for this?") has been always supported by one named Mahmud Dharampal who believed in Arya faith and afterwards embraced Islam. But I have nothing to do with this at present. Whatever the case may be, the language used in the chapter is so filthy, shameful and provocative that the bitterest kind of hatred is produced in the minds of not only the Mussalmans but in the minds of all those who have got any regard for decency or gentlemanliness. Sir, it is because of such writings and their publications that a foundation is laid for permanently creating hatred amongst the communities. I had the opportunity of reading some passages and I make bold to say that the blood of a law and peace abiding person like myself began to boil at the most insulting and filthy language used for Allah and the Holy Prophet. I realised at that time how persons on such occasions were in the zeal of their religious convictions actuated to commit crimes of murder and then when sent up for trial boldly make confessions. Such instances are experienced all over the country and my province particularly had to see many such instances.

If such publications are allowed a wide publicity and they are read by the general public who feel strongly about their religion, they will create a Hell in the country and would be responsible for many conflicts and bloodsheds, as has been experienced in several places where such differences existed. With the increase of education in the rural areas, Mussalmans there have become conscious and sensitive of their rights and religious feeling because they are more religious minded than people of the towns. I warn the Government that it is time for them that they should avoid the creation of such circumstances as prompt bloodshed in the country. In spite of the fact that since a very long time there has been a great hue and cry in the country and in the Muslim Press against the book the Government has not stirred at all in this matter. May I know why? These are the circumstances which create a great suspicion in the minds of the Mussalmans about the coming Central Government when India has the fortune of becoming a self-governing country. The subject under discussion today brings forth a reasonable ground for Mussalmans of the

country to demand Pakistan where at least they can expect to be able to keep the sanctity of their religion, God and their Prophet. The publicity given to such publications as the 14th Chapter in the Satyarth Prakasha is the biggest bomb for the country in this respect and I foresee bloodshed everywhere in the country, if no action is taken to stop its publicity. Government take so many precautions when they smell that riots are expected to take place at some places in the country. I say that the objectionable chapter of the Satyarth Prakasha would bring riots everywhere and it is high time for them to give their most serious consideration to the matter.

In my opinion the Sind Government has done a great service to the country in taking a lead in stopping the publication of Chapter 14 of the Satyarth Prakasha and thus obviated the chances of disunity and bloodshed in their province that would have resulted, as a result of the publication. I may tell the House that to a Mussalman loyalty to his Prophet is greater than any other being, greater than the regard for his wife, parents, children and even his King. I would therefore request all those friends of mine who call themselves the friends of Bharatmata and advocate unity in different communities to strongly oppose the motion. Everyone of us should commend to the Central Government and the Governments of all the Provinces to follow the Sind Government's policy in this matter. May I, therefore, take this opportunity of appealing to the Ministries now functioning in the provinces to take up this question in their Executive Councils and to follow the good lead of the Sind Ministry. I can assure them that this action of theirs will prepare a ground of unity amongst the Mussalmans and the Hindus and they will be doing a great service to the country. Sir, with these remarks I oppose the motion moved by my friend Bhai Parmanand.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I feel that Bhai Parmanand was very wise in putting the legal question before the House instead of going into these quarrels which would injure the feelings of the other party. But on this Muslim side I still see an attempt to fight out and to create a quarrel even in this House and to injure the feelings of the Members of this House and also of those who are outside it. It would have been wise on their part if they had shown that according to the law, namely, the Defence of India Act, this order of the Sind Government is a correct or a legal order. Coming from Sind as I do, I know that that exceptionally estimable Ministry is not only capable of passing such orders but they will not see that peace is kept there, especially when murders and unlawful assemblies are so very common there. It would have been wise on their part to see if any other Ministry in India has passed any such order during the last 20 years when the book has been in existence. It is easy to find out why the Sind Ministry has passed this order. Most of the Ministers there prize themselves as being the members of the Muslim League. When we find that the two Hindu Ministers have also been a party to this order, we cannot refrain from saying that they are most condemnable. They have been condemned for this and for many other things and the Panchayats of Sind have met together and have asked them to resign on this issue. But their seats are very sweet to them and probably they will injure our feelings in many other matters as time goes on. We can gauge from this action of the League what sort of Pakistan would be. Pakistan they have already in Sind. (Interruptions.) What I am submitting is this. It is very easy to get these things done. If we recount the list of the harm that has been done to the Hindus which is well-known to everyone, then everybody will say: "Well, they have now been put up by the Muslim League and they take the credit of putting the whole of India into chaos and trouble.

Now, Sir, I will read to you the law on this point and I would advise the Government not to go into the merits of this book or rather the order. They should try to find out whether the Ordinance applies and whether the order is legal or not. I would tell them that it would be wise on their part to do that. If they do not agree with the Sind Government, then no other Ministry would

[Mr. Lalchand Navarai.] *

create any disturbance like this. Otherwise, they would ask the other Ministries to come forward and create disturbances and thus disturb the peace of the country.

Now, Sir, to begin with, when the Defence of India Act was enacted (and I was a party to it), it was said that it is only for the war front. With that object, the Defence of India Act was enacted. Then, the power was given under this Act to the Government at the Centre to make rules. It was proposed that these rules will be placed before the House or at least the Members of the House will be taken into consultation when those rules are made.

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

These rules have now been made and they are being abused all over the country. We have been asked that these rules should be revised but this has not been done. In this particular case, this rule does not apply to this religious matter. A part of it has been read by Bhai Parmanand. It says:

"Whereas an emergency has occurred which renders it necessary to provide for special measures to ensure the public safety and interests and the defence of India. . . ."

So, it is only for the defence of India and the safety and security of India that this Defence of India Act was enacted. Then I come to the other sections which clearly show that no order of the nature which the Sind Government has passed can be passed under any section or any rule of the Defence of India Act.

Now, let us see what are those rules under which a book can be proscribed or under which an order can be made that a certain book should not be printed. The House will then be convinced that it is not with respect to religious or communal questions or questions between certain parties or individuals that this Defence of India Act has to be applied. It is to be applied in particular cases and even with regard to the publication of books. I will refer the House to rule 38. What does this rule say?—

"No person shall without lawful authority or excuse do any prejudicial act or obtain, collect, record, elicit, make, print or publish, or distribute or communicate by any means whatsoever to any other person, any information likely to assist the enemy."

Does it come under that? No. The Rule further goes on:

"make, print, publish or distribute any document containing, or spread by any other means whatsoever, any prejudicial report".

Is this a prejudicial report? Certainly not.—

"make, print, produce, publish, or distribute any publication containing, or communicate to any person by any means whatsoever, any confidential information."

Does this come under this Rule? It does not. Barring the above, there is no other Rule that I have come across. Now, there is another Rule in similar strain and it is Rule 40. It says:

"Where in the opinion of the Central Government or the Provincial Government any document made, printed or published, whether before or after the Ordinance came into force, contains any confidential information, any information likely to assist the enemy or any prejudicial report, the Government may, by order. . . .proscribe that book."

Now, Sir, it is very clear that the order of the Sind Government is illegal and it should not have been made. Shelter has been taken under this that this order is for the public safety and order. Now, Sir, let me refer to Part X of the Defence of India Rules, Rule 56:

"The Central Government or the Provincial Government may, for the purpose of securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the efficient prosecution of war, by general or special order, prohibit, restrict or impose conditions upon, the holding of or taking part in public processions, meetings or assemblies."

Even going through all the three other parts of this Rule, they do not say that in a matter like this where a book has been printed, that book would come under the mischief of the Defence of India Rules. Therefore, Sir, it is plain that the Sind Government has erred. I might go further and say that the Sind Government has done a most mischievous act and it has done a dangerous act. It is fighting with fire, because the House knows that if Muslims are brave, the Arya Samajists are no less brave. The Arya Samajists

are known to be brave. They have fought to the end on their own religious matters. In a matter like this where the Arya Samajists are concerned on the one side, and the Muslims on the other, the Sind Government should not have come into the picture and taken sides on behalf of Muslims. On this ground alone the Sind Government's action is condemnable. I do not wonder that the Sind Government has been doing all kinds of things, but not other Governments. Hereafter if any agitation is set on foot in other Provinces, I hope other Provincial Governments will be wise enough to consider whether this Act applies, whether this Rule applies and whether it is desirable to invoke the Rules to ban this book on the ground that the contending parties would create a disturbance and thus safety will be jeopardised. I therefore submit that so far as the Sind Government is concerned, I am not at all feeling surprised, because I know what all acts the Sind Government are doing. They are already acting as a Pakistan Province.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss Sind politics here. This motion is in order owing to the alleged failure on the part of the Government of India to take action under the Defence of India Rules. Sind politics cannot be discussed here.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But the Chair has not heard what I was going to say.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have heard.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I uttered only two words, call it Pakistan. Is it not Pakistan, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question of Pakistan does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then, I will invite the Chair with great respect to come and see what is happening in Sind. On the floor of the Sind Legislature, they have condemned the Sind Ministry and charged it with corruption, but nothing has been done so far.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Sind Ministry is not under discussion on this motion.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Sind Government ought to be brought to its senses.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member ought not to try to indict the Sind Ministry which is not represented here. I would not have admitted this motion but for the fact that the particular order was passed under the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder and I thought that the Government of India might have some thing to say as regards the way the Rules under the Act have been given effect to in the matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: If that is the point that has to be urged, then I have said that the Act does not apply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Issue of Pakistan is not there.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: On the contrary, I submit, it should not be. It would be wise on their part to restrict to local questions. Now, Sir, I am condemning the Sind Government.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is the responsibility of the Government of India that is in issue and the Honourable Member must confine his remarks to the responsibility of the Government of India in this matter. I see that the Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But the Chair has taken two minutes of my time and I request that I may be allowed some more time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, the Honourable Member must conclude.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then I will only say that the Central Government is to be condemned because they have not taken care to see that the Sind Government do not exercise their power in an arbitrary way.

Sir Vithal N. Chhandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, at the outset, I want to make it perfectly clear that whatever I am saying today does not represent the views of my constituency, I am speaking in my personal capacity. I am neither an Arya Samajist nor an orthodox Hindu. I belong to a family which was outcasted nearly sixty years ago. The only reason why I am taking part in this debate is that I understand this book has been in existence for over sixty or seventy years. I have not read the Chapter which has been banned. But the question is this: Is the Sind Government or any Provincial Government entitled to take action under a measure against a book which has been there for over sixty or seventy years and which has nothing to do with war, under the powers delegated by the Government of India under a measure which was enacted for the purpose of maintaining law and order with special reference to the conduct of the war. If the Government of India feel that there is something very objectionable in that Chapter, then the unilateral action of the Sind Government will not carry us very far. If the Government of India really believe that this Chapter is so obnoxious that it ought not to be there, then, it is high time to see, that as far as this Chapter is concerned, it is banned for the whole country. The Government of India should go further and appoint a Committee to scrutinise all the ancient scriptures or ancient religious texts and to see that anything that is against public policy and morality as understood by us now should be deleted. I refer to Christian, Hindu scriptures and all scriptures because I do not want to hurt the sentiments of any one. Even in my own Hindu scriptures there are sentiments which I consider to be objectionable and obnoxious and against public policy and public morality as we understand them today. Are Government prepared to take action in regard to all such matters? If so, I shall certainly be with them and I might, if invited to, serve on such a committee. I am still awaiting the speech of the Honourable the Home Member but I really cannot understand the unilateral action of the Sind Government in taking this action with regard to a book which has been in existence for 70 years. At present, Sir, I feel inclined to support this motion of adjournment.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, it is unfortunate that the Sind Government has passed this order banning a particular chapter of the Satyarth Prakasha. I will give you a history of this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must address himself to the Government of India. The Sind Government is not here to answer any charge.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: In June 1943 the Sind Government stated in a communique that it was considering the question whether the Satyarth Prakasha should be proscribed or not, but there was a tremendous agitation against it and after that the Sind Government again issued a communique in July 1943 stating that they had no intention of taking any step against the Satyarth Prakasha. But now it is strongly enough that owing to some frantic efforts on the part of some fanatic gentlemen of the Muslim League, the Sind Government have passed this order. This Satyarth Prakasha, Sir, is a book of criticisms just as many other books in Hindu and Muslim society are: I have gone through the whole of the 14th chapter but I have not seen any scurrilous attack either on Muhammad or on Islam. General criticism is there just as in many other books. In the Bible Christ said something against the Pharisees and the scribes. Should the Bible be banned on that account? There are other sects of Hindus on which Swami Dayanand has passed strictures. The thing is that in books of criticism the author is given freedom of expression and we give every historian, writer or critic some freedom of expression. The Holy Koran too has said many things against infidels. I have got a book with me here to show how Muhammad spoke against non-Muslims.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member should not spread the trouble any further.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: I should like to say how the order of the Sind Government hurts the feelings of the Arya community. And the Central Government should take steps about it. Sir, the point is, if there were so much in the book that is objectionable, what were the Government of India doing so long? Why could not they take action earlier? I think there is nothing in the book which can endanger public safety or induce riots among Hindus, Muslims and Arya Samajists. Therefore, I feel that the Sind Government had no business to take such action which will introduce new enmity among the communities. In this country we all should be tolerant; there are so many books, communities and sects; no one ought to fight against another because of the literature which expresses the view of a particular sect. The Sind Government has taken this step, because the Muslim League in 1943 passed a Resolution at Lahore urging the Sind Government and the Governments of other Muslim majority provinces to take measures against the Satyarth Prakasha; otherwise they had no reason to take this step according to the Defence of India Rules. These rules have been read out by my honourable friend Mr. Lalchand Navalrai and also referred to by my Honourable friend Bhāi Parmanand. There is nothing in the book to entitle the Sind Government to ban any portion of it. Sir, you know the reformer Martin Luther said many things against King Henry VIII. The great Muslim leader and reformer Sir Syed Ahmad Khan also said something very much against the Muslims. In one passage speaking about the description of paradise in holy Koran, he says: "If this is Paradise our brothels are without exaggeration a thousand times more decent." That was his criticism. What I say is that people are always doing it and why should Government go out of its way to ban something here and something there? My Muslim friends in Sind may go to a law-court and get a judgment about this book; why should the Sind Government ban it? It is high time for the Government of India to intervene; otherwise there will be riots and fighting. This order under defence of India Rule will help to disturb peace.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Have the Government of India powers under the Defence of India Act to issue orders in such cases, is the question under consideration?

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Yes, Sir, the Government of India has the power of supervision. The Government of India can say that the Act and the rules have been misapplied and the order should be withdrawn.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Government of India can issue

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not prompt him from there.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Sir, the Muslim League has also asked other provincial Governments like the Bengal and Assam Governments to pass similar orders. So the danger is there. If the Government of India do not take action in time it may be too late. Therefore, in the interest of the country and its people and in the interest of humanity they should intervene in time. This is a question of freedom of religion and freedom of expression any my friends of the European Group should join with us and demand necessary action from Government. My Congress friends stand for the sacred principles of liberty and freedom. I call upon them to say whether the freedom of religious belief and freedom of expression will be given to the author of Satyarth Prakasha which guides the actions of thousands of Arya Samajists in this country. All religions should be free to publish books and criticise the views of their opponents. My Muslim friend over there says there are obscene things in Satyarth Prakasha. There are obscene passages in many religious books. There are obscene passages in Koran. I can show you the passages now and here. Are you therefore going to ban the Koran?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member should confine himself to the book referred to in the motion.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Sir, I will not take any more time. I have expressed myself strongly because I feel strongly. I would request the Government of India to come to the help of the people and take such action as

[Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam.]

is necessary under the law. In the name of the Defence of India Rule the action of the Sind Government will invite more troubles in India. Sir, with these few words I support the motion moved by Bhai Parmanandji.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): I thank you, Sir, for your ruling that we are not discussing the politics of Sind, but that does not make it any easier for me to know what to say because the action that we have been condemned for is the action of the Sind Government. It has been alleged that we could come to the conclusion that it was illegal. One Honourable Member said that the Government of India should come to the conclusion, if they examine the matter, that the action of Sind Government was illegal. Supposing they did. The Sind Government thinks one thing, we think another. There is nothing we could do really.

Sir, this action of the Government of Sind was taken presumably under Rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules: they banned the printing and publishing, as far as I understand it, of a fresh edition of Satyarth Prakasha. They did not take any action under 99(A) of the Criminal Procedure Code as they might have done and confiscate all copies of that book. There is no question of stopping the circulation of it. What was done was stopping the issue of a new edition. It was said that that action was illegal. Rule 41 gives power to prohibit or regulate the making or publishing of any document or class of documents, and that can be done in the interests of public safety and public order.

One Honourable Member laid it down that action could not be taken under the Defence of India Rules except for the defence of British India and the prosecution of the war. That, Sir, is not so. In sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Act—not the Rules, the Act as it was passed in this House—it is laid down that the Central Government may make rules for securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order, or the prosecution of the war. That was debated on the floor of this House and an amendment was moved. That amendment for the deletion of the words 'public order' was negatived. Therefore it is clear that action can be taken under the Defence Rules for the maintenance of public order. The Government of Sind have ostensibly passed their orders in the interest of public peace

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): How was it affected?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is not for me to say whether that order was justified, or not justified. It is not for any one in this House to say, least of all it is for my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh, to say. No one can say unless he is in Sind and responsible for the administration of Sind. But it needs no elaboration for me to point out that religious contentions do in this country imperil public order. This very new edition of this Book has resulted in disorder in Lahore.

Then I come to the suggestion of my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, that the Government of India should, if this Book is objectionable, take action and ban it throughout the whole country. That, Sir, shows, I think, complete misapprehension of the position. These books are not banned in a case of this sort, because the book is in itself objectionable. That is not the case. Action was taken because in this case the printing of this book was held to imperil public order. There is no judgment passed on the book in one way or another. It may be that public peace in Sind is imperilled and public peace elsewhere is not imperilled. What would be the immediate reaction if we were to ban this book throughout India? What justification would we have to do it. If this is not likely to cause trouble in the Punjab, Madras, Assam, Bengal and so on, why should we take action to ban it? The Honourable Member who moved this motion at once raised the question to an all-India level. Up till now it was merely provincial, and the circumstances which have led the Government of Sind to take this action are peculiar to Sind. I am very much afraid that the whole of this debate, particularly because of the way it has been carried on, may do great harm. I am sure that the Mover has done no good

to the cause that he has at heart. I would like to make it quite clear that this trouble, as far as I know, has necessitated action only in Sind. There is not the least chance of the Government of India taking any action unless there is an extraordinary change in the circumstances. Unless this happens it is quite impossible to envisage the Government of India following my Honourable friend Sir Chandavarkar's advice and banning this book throughout India. Action of this sort is only taken in the interest of public peace and that is the responsibility of Provincial Governments.

One word more. What would be the result if the Government of India were to interfere in the day to day law and order administration of the provinces? The first thing they would have to do would be to accept the responsibility for the peace of these provinces. Now, whether you do that on paper, or not, one thing is certain that the consequences of breakdown of law and order fall first and principally on the Provincial Government. It is the provincial Police and magistracy that have to quell these disturbances and may lose their lives in doing so. The three consequences of civil disturbance, the break down of supplies, the interruption of communications and destruction of property also fall chiefly on Provincial Governments. The Government of India cannot, in fact, accept the responsibility for law and order in the provinces. It is for this reason, *i.e.*, that the consequences of disorder fall on Provincial Governments, that law and order has now been transferred to Provincial Governments. Any interference in that situation would most seriously affect law and order throughout the country. It is of the highest importance that the responsibility of Provincial Governments for law and order should in no way be blurred. For these reasons, I ask the House to reject this motion.

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, I would like to congratulate you on giving that ruling and confining this debate to a narrow issue, which is really the issue on which the mover of the motion had concentrated. And I wish, Sir, you had been in the Chair when my Honourable friend, Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, made his speech which went beyond the issue, with the result that he gave expression to certain sentiments which are really irrelevant to the issue before the House and unnecessarily offensive.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I hope the Honourable Member will not indulge in anything irrelevant.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Does Sardar Sant Singh know that Guru Nanak has been abused in Satyarth Prakash?

Sardar Sant Singh: I know much more than Maulana Sahib does. I know how to express my feelings. I have been longer here than Maulana Sahib has been.

Sir, I have listened with interest the reply given by the Honourable the Home Member to this motion. The issue is really a narrow one. That issue is: "what is the Government of India to do in the matter where a Provincial Government abuses the powers delegated to them under the Defence of India Rules?" Particularly if Provincial administration acts in a manner which is prejudicial to a large section of the people of that province. If I have understood the Honourable the Home Member correctly, he has taken this position. He says, 'Presumably the action has been taken under Rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules'. I am inclined to agree with him that presumably the action had

5 P.M. been taken under this Rule. But from an Honourable Member who represents the Government of India, the House does not expect and rightly does not expect that he should base his case on presumptions. He should have made enquiries from the Government of Sind to find out under what rule they took the action and if they took the action under Rule 41 he should have been prepared to say that they actually took the action under that rule. However, that is not the very important point. Part (b) of the rule to which the Honourable the Home Member referred says:

"Prohibit or regulate the making or publishing of any document or class of document or of any matter relating to a particular subject or class of subject or the use of any press as defined in the India Press Emergency Powers Act 1931."

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

This rule gives power under certain conditions. Those conditions are contained in clause 1 of this Rule, viz.,

"The Central Government or the Provincial Government may for the purpose of securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the efficient prosecution of war by order, etc., etc."

Thus before part (b) of clause 1 can be applied the conditions precedent which are stated in clause 1 of the Rule must exist. Now, here again the Honourable the Home Member has taken a very convenient line. He says presumably in the interests of public order this was done. When I asked him how the public order was affected thereby, he had no information to give to the House. He did not care to enquire from the Sind Government what were their grounds for believing that the public security was affected thereby. He has not enlightened the House on that point. It is very convenient to say that this rule applies—It can be made to apply to such a case as to a petition writer who may be asked to write a complaint for the Court that a certain woman has been enticed away for some immoral purpose; therefore under Rule 41 the petition writer should not write this. If the legal powers are to be twisted into a convenient shape for the purpose of injuring the religious prejudices of a particular community then the object of law is frustrated. It is a common knowledge that in a Court of law the lawyers of both sides make plausible arguments for their clients. But for the Government of India, who has taken the responsibility for administering this country and has got extraordinary executive powers vested in them, to justify the use of those powers merely on presumptions and on lack of information, is a thing which is unheard of in any democratic government and which cannot satisfy the democratic conscience of anybody much less it should satisfy that of the Honourable the Home Member.

This motion has been admitted in this House on the ground of the responsibility of the Government of India. You, Sir, as the Honourable President, were right when you put the question: What can the Government of India do in the matter? It is this. After reviewing the working of the Defence of India Rules by the Provincial Governments, they can take action under two heads. First by issuing instructions to the Governors to see that the minorities are protected under those minority safeguards in the Government of India Act and that they enjoy freedom of religious worship. I may not agree with a particular sort of worship of a particular religion.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan at the beginning asked me about the references to the Sikh Gurus in that chapter. I am aware of them. I do not agree with them. I am opposed to them. My community has condemned that portion. But does it mean to say that when we are developing democratic institutions in this country, when we are learning toleration towards one another and allowing freedom of worship to everybody I should not allow freedom of worship to a certain section because I happen to disagree with it or because its criticism of my religion is intolerable?

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: I do not agree with you.

Sardar Sant Singh: You will not agree with the prejudiced spectacles on your nose!

I say with confidence that in the working of the democratic institutions the first essential amongst others is that we should learn to be tolerant towards one another. Without toleration we cannot go on for a minute. The Government of India's responsibility is to invoke the safeguards in the Government of India Act where the freedom of worship and the rights of the minority classes are particularly handed over to the Governor for protection. The second point which the Government of India should note is to issue friendly instructions to the provinces and if they do not listen to this advice then the course is plain: that this rule which has been framed by the Central Government should be amended and the power taken away from the Provincial Government and vested in the Central Government. They have the power to amend this rule. Why

allow this rule to stand where they find a gross abuse of power by a Provincial Government?

My friend has said that the peace of Sind may be affected thereby. It does not require a prophet to tell him or to predict that the peace of Sind if it is to be disturbed will be disturbed by the use of this rule rather than by the want of the use of this rule. The book has been there for the last five years of the war. There has been no disturbance. Now, if the Arya Samajists take it in their heads to come and commit violent deeds and to break the law, what power is there for you to say that you will prevent them except by sending them to jail and using your brute force against them? Will the peace of Sind be disturbed or will it be saved? If anyone has paved the way for a disturbance of the peace in Sind it is the Central Government and I can predict without any fear that the peace of Sind will be disturbed by this action unless the Government of India intervenes.

What happened in Hyderabad (Deccan)? There was a similar incident. Thousands of people went to jail to defend their religious rights. I may not agree with those who went to jail. But we cannot shut our eyes to the realities of the situation that it did happen: I understand that the Arya Samajists in the Punjab are greatly disturbed over it and if they begin to break the peace of the land the Government of India cannot sit quietly and say it is the responsibility of the Sind Government.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What did you say?

Sardar Sant Singh: They are determined to fight this ban.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: But they are in the Punjab!

Sardar Sant Singh: They will go to Sind to fight it there.

May I ask what is the meaning of the Government of India taking up this attitude that if the peace is disturbed in Sind it will be the responsibility of the Provincial Government and not the Central Government? Will you sit quiet if firing takes place or if more serious breaches of the peace are committed? Will not your war effort suffer thereby and will not the very object of the Defence of India Act be defeated by your silence and condoning of the act of the Sind Government? This is a short-sighted view which no man with the least grain of common sense can afford to take.

Lastly, Sir, I want to say that I do not approve of the attitude of the Congress Party in spiriting themselves away when the time comes to test their love of democracy and love of complete independence. They have left their benches: what for? Because they are afraid to displease the Muslim League Party. I do not approve of this method of the Party. If there is to be democracy, we should have courage enough to say what we believe to be right and must vote for it, and if a thing is not right we must have the courage to oppose it. This neutrality, which is much less benevolent neutrality, is a thing which ought to be condemned strongly, even so because I have more often to agree with the Congress Party than differ from them.

Therefore, Sir, I think the Government of India will do well even now to hold out an assurance that the Sind Government will be approached to take the right decision and to rescind this order which is full of mischief, and danger, and is calculated to produce class hatred between different communities in India. With these words I support this motion.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): Sir, it is always very unpleasant to enter into a religious controversy. It is a pity that my Honourable friend Bhai Parmanand thought it proper to table the adjournment motion on an occasion, when we instead of coming closer to each other, are pursuing two different paths which I am sure will never meet.

Let us examine as to why this India-wide agitation is being carried on for the deletion of the objectional passages in the book in question by the members of the Muslim League and Muslims of different schools of political thought. It is only about a year ago that a resolution was passed in the open session of the All-India Muslim League at Karachi where it was demanded of the Central

[Nawab Siddique Ali Khan.]

Government (not the Provincial Government as my Honourable friend Mr. Dam said) to prosecute the publishers of this book and to ban chapters 12, 13 and 14, which are devoted to a criticism of Jainism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. The language of Chapter 14 is no doubt very offensive, abusive and insulting. Sir, nobody would object to fair criticism but malicious, and provocative attacks on religion, religious beliefs or the Prophets cannot be tolerated. This principle has also been accepted by the Government by the enactment of sec. 295A, Indian Penal Code.

Sir, let us see whether the criticisms levelled against Islam and the whole community fall under the former or the latter category. I shall now, Sir, quote a few passages from Chapter 14.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into that. That is not the question. The question simply is this: whether the Government of India would not be justified in reviewing the order of the Sind Government, prohibiting the publication of a certain book which they consider is likely to lead to a breach of the peace or is otherwise objectionable. The merits of the book in question cannot be discussed.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): It has been contended, Sir, that it was a religious book and as such has got sanctity. Hence it was that the motion was considered one of public importance and the debate has been allowed to take place in this House. If the book has no sanctity, then it is no more a matter of public importance.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow any such discussion.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: The Honourable the Home Member has just said that the Sind Government had to take action because in their opinion they thought that peace and order could not be maintained there. I want to submit that I wish to show from the passages (I will quote with your permission, Sir) that peace and order can not be maintained in Sind or anywhere else, if these objectionable passages are not deleted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think it is disputed that there are passages in that book which might be considered offensive by particular religious bodies.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: My Honourable friend Mr. Dam said that there are no offensive or abusive passages in the book Satyartha Prakash

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are, I understand, criticisms of other religions too than Islam. But that is not the question. You cannot possibly go into questions like that.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: The other point which I want to raise is this. I have got a book here, which is the authentic translation of the original Satyartha Prakash, which was published in the year 1875 and doesn't contain chapters 13 and 14. The Secretary of the Arya Samaj, Lahore, in the introduction says that the Urdu translation of the original book is quite literal and that he has not added anything. Afterwards he says that the fabricated copies of 'Satyartha Prakash', which are in the market today, deserve to be heaped together and burnt. This opinion has been expressed by the Secretary of the Arya Samaj in the translation published in the year 1912. From this one can conclude that the book is objectionable and the language which is used there is very insulting. I think the Sind Government, as has been said by my Honourable friend Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, deserves our thanks for taking prompt action in this matter.

Sir, the House will be interested to know that this is not the first time that action has been taken regarding similar offensive books. In the Central Provinces when the late Dr. Raghavendra Rao was the Home Member, some poems were composed which were known as "Quran ki Gazalen". He got the composer of these poems prosecuted and copies of the poems were forfeited and the composer was fined. So this is not the first time that a Provincial Government has taken action.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Was it the Satyartha Prakash?

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: It was a similar book in which abusive language was used against Islam and the Holy Prophet. Sir, I do not think I have anything more to say and I request that the adjournment motion be defeated by this Honourable House.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

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

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Mover wish to reply?

Bhai Parmanand: No.

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

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—15.

Bhai Parmanand.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Hans Raj, Raizada.

Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Sham Lal, Lala.

NOES—55.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Ashar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardesbir.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Shetkh.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Joshi, Mr. D. S.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A.

Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad
Muhammad.
Miller, Mr. C. C.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Sethna, Mr. D. P.
Shabhan, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
Muhammad.
Shoobert, Mr. W. H.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
Spence, Sir George.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Tvson, Mr. J. D.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 6th November, 1944.