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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume II, 1945

(28th February to 13th March, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Sir ABDUE RAHIM, K.C.S.I.

Deputy President :

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Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

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

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 19th March, 1945

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

MEMBERS SWORN:

Sir Gurnath Venkatesh Bewoor, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Secretary, Posts and Air Department); and
Mr. Ram Chandra, I.C.S. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE RE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

1076. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the attitude of the Government of India over the Independence Day celebrated in various parts of the country on the 26th January; and

(b) whether any of the Provincial Governments have consulted the Government of India over the attitude to be adopted by them in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). There has from time to time been correspondence between the Government of India and Provincial Governments on the question of the attitude that they should adopt towards the celebration of "Independence" day. The present position is that Provincial Governments are free to decide on their own line of action in this matter. The early attainment of independence for India is the declared policy of His Majesty's Government and no inference to the contrary can be drawn from any action that any Provincial Government considered it necessary to take in any particular case in discharge of their responsibility for the maintenance of law and order.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (a) of the question? What is the attitude of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: They have left the matter entirely to the Provinces.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What about the Centrally Administered Areas?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The matter is left to the Chief Commissioners.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is the Honourable Member aware that in many of the Provinces, the Provincial Governments have taken action against celebration of Independence Day?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: They have presumably taken action, as I have said in my reply, in the discharge of their responsibility for the maintenance of law and order: no political inference can be drawn from any action which they take.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Government consider the advisability of circularising all Provincial Governments that in view of the fact that the only object of that day's celebration is the attainment of independence for India, that no action should be taken by the Provincial Governments against such celebration?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir.

HOISTING OF NATIONAL FLAGS

1077. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether there is any ban on the national flag being put up in homes, on motor-cars or otherwise;

(b) whether he is aware that in many places in the country those flags, hoisted even in private houses or shops were asked to be removed by the police; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). As far as I am aware, there is no ban in the country on the flying of any particular flag. I have no knowledge of any action that may have been taken on particular occasions or in particular places by Provincial police.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: How many arrests were made in Delhi on that day for hoisting the national flag, I mean the Independence Day?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think there is a further question on the subject later on.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government are aware that even in Delhi, the hoisting of the National Flag was banned?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There is a further question on that subject, as far as I know.

EXCISE DUTY ON SUGAR

1078. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the rate of excise duty on sugar in 1938-39, and how much it yielded?

(b) What is the rate of excise duty on sugar now and how much did it yield in 1943-44 and in 1944-45 (up to the 31st December, 1944)?

(c) What is the total number of assessees in respect of central excises for sugar?

(d) What is the cost of collection?

(e) Do Government use the Provincial Government's good offices or services for collecting sugar excise in any Province?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The rates of excise duty on sugar in 1938-39 were as follows:

(i) one rupee per cwt. on *Khandsari* sugar; and

(ii) two rupees per cwt. on all other sugar except palmyra sugar.

This excise yielded about Rs. 423 lakhs during that year.

(b) The existing rates of excise duty on sugar are as follows:

(i) eight annas per cwt. on *Khandsari* sugar; and

(ii) three rupees per cwt. on sugar other than *Khandsari* or palmyra.

The yield during 1943-44 and during the period 1st April 1944 to 31st December 1944 was about Rs. 668 lakhs and Rs. 870 lakhs respectively.

(c) An excise duty on sugar is levied from the manufacturer when the sugar is delivered from the factory. I taken it that by 'number of assessees' is meant 'number of factories'. There are about 694 factories producing dutiable sugar.

(d) The cost of collection during 1944-45 is estimated at about Rs. 8½ lakhs.

(e) Not ordinarily.

WOMEN IN CENSOR OFFICES

1079. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the statement by a correspondent "X" in the Blitz newspaper of Bombay, dated the 10th February, 1945, which is as follows:

"The Censors' Offices are filled with European and Anglo-Indian women, drawing fat salaries"?

(b) What is the total number of women in the Censors' Offices all over the country?

(c) How many of them are Europeans, how many Anglo-Indians and how many Indians?

(d) Is the scale of salary for Europeans and Indians the same? If not, what are the varying scales?

(e) What is the total outlay on this subject?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1,080.

(c) Europeans, 613; Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians 278; Indians 199.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The second part does not arise.

(e) Rs. 36,22,800 per annum.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that these women censors read personal letters passing between husbands and wives in this country and between this country and U. K., and that they spread scandals and social histories and family histories among themselves?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: It is their function to censor all correspondence going out of and coming into India, but I am not aware that they spread the knowledge of what they read.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the amount of delay caused in the despatch of letters owing to this censorship?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: The minimum delay.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member said that the scale of salary for European and Indian censor women are the same? What is the pay?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I have not got the particular statement about pay with me. I shall be glad to show it to the Honourable Member, if he so desires.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Are these women censors told that they must keep these things confidential?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: Most certainly, Sir.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Do they take a vow of secrecy?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I think they do, and it is certainly impressed upon them that what they read is to be kept absolutely confidential and that nothing should go out.

AUGMENTATION OF STERLING BALANCES DUE TO INDIAN EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA, ETC.

1080. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to the address of Rai Bahadur Syamnandan-Sahya, C.I.E., President of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce, where he says as follows on the 25th January, 1945:

"Exports from India to middle-eastern countries and Australia have also been responsible for the augmentation of the sterling balances"?

(b) Is it a fact that payment for goods sent to Australia and the Eastern Group countries was not made direct to India, but was settled through London and where the balance was in favour of India, it has gone to swell the sterling balances?

(c) Is it a fact that Australia and the Eastern Group countries send goods to England against goods received by them from India, leaving England to pay India for these goods, and that these payments not having been made the sterling accumulations are showing themselves?

(d) Have Government considered that for this part of the sterling balances, payment could be secured from Australia and the Eastern Group countries in such goods as India needs, or in gold, or in any other assets that these countries may be in a position to give?

(e) Why have the Government of India not settled these matters directly with these countries, but settled them through London, leading to the accumulation of sterling?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I have seen a newspaper report of the speech to which the Honourable Member refers but it does not contain the actual passage mentioned.

(b) to (e). The Honourable Member's question appears to be based on a misunderstanding. The position is that so far as the Eastern Group countries are concerned, imports into India are not restricted by considerations of exchange for they are all in the sterling area: and there is no hinderance on financial or exchange grounds to the needs of India being met by such exports as these countries are in a position to offer. Owing, however, to the pattern which the

necessities of war have imposed on trade and such causes as shortages of supply and of shipping space, India has had a favourable balance of trade with these countries which they have not been able to meet by exports to India whether directly or indirectly. It is quite incorrect to suggest that Indian exports to these countries have helped the United Kingdom financially to increase its imports from them.

The credits resulting from India's favourable balance of trade are held in the form of sterling balances in London and not separately in each country from the export surplus to which they arise. There would be no advantage in following the latter course as the transmission of funds from one sterling area country to another is freely possible and the sterling in London can be transferred for payment to any other part of the sterling area as and when it is required.

Mr. Mann Subedar: In view of the fact that the favourable balance, in favour of India from these countries, is relatively small, much smaller than that of U. K., have Government any greater guarantee or assurance of the early return of such favourable balance, directly from these countries to India?

The Honourable Sir Jesemy Raisman: As I have explained it is perfectly open to India to obtain imports when available from these other countries to cover that favourable balance and so no further guarantee seems to be necessary.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Will such exports from these countries to India be paid by U. K. promptly without question from the sterling balances which have been accumulated?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is not a question of payment by U. K. These sterling balances are available for India to make payment within the sterling area.

TECHNICAL INDUSTRIES TRAINING TO INDIAN STUDENTS

1081. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) apart from the training given in universities to students, as mentioned in the press communique of the Education, Health and Lands Department, whether the Government have any scheme to depute and train men in technical industries; so that they can be used in the starting of industries in the post-war period;

(b) whether they have negotiated with the Government or industrialists of the U. K. or the U. S. A. to get such men trained; and

(c) if so, in what industries?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The reply will be given by the Honourable Member for Labour on the appropriate date.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Shall I have to give fresh notice?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The reply will be given by the Labour Member without fresh notice.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I may have more than five questions on that day; will it therefore be shut out?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can withdraw one of the questions.

POSTS TO WHICH INDIANS ARE NOT PERMANENTLY APPOINTED.

1082. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) what the posts in the Government of India are to which no Indian has been permanently employed till now;

(b) the reasons for such non-appointment of Indians; and

(c) whether there is any statutory reservation of any of these posts for Europeans; if so, what those posts are which are so reserved?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). There is no statutory provision reserving any post under the Government of India for Europeans. Such being so, the labour required to make a list of the posts which have not yet in fact been held by Indians would not be justified.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I have a list with regard to the higher posts in the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If the Honourable Member specifies what he means by "higher posts" and puts down a question, I will look into it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I know that in the lower posts like those of *chaprassies* and so on, they are all Indians. So there is no need for a specific question. It is of course open to the Honourable Member not to answer the question in the public interests, but when the question has been allowed by the Honourable President and asked, they should give an answer.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: We will have to go into the records of these posts for about 20 years, and if the question is not specific there can be no reply given.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the Home Member has ever been an Indian?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I believe not.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are Indians eligible to posts in the Cypher Department?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is there any legal bar to the appointment of Indians as Home Member or Finance Member of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I believe not.

BAN ON CHARUKHA SPINNING DEMONSTRATION IN CONNAUGHT PLACE

1088. **Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) Whether the park in Connaught Place has been used since 1941 by the National War Front for public demonstration;

(b) whether on the 11th February, 1945 the police and the municipal authorities stopped by force a silent spinning open air *Charukha* demonstration; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it a fact that a report appeared in the press that these people were dispersed by force? May I know if that is true?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer is, No.

ARRESTS FOR HOISTING NATIONAL FLAG IN CONNAUGHT PLACE

1084. **Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether two Congressmen were arrested in December last for hoisting National Flag in Connaught Place;

(b) whether they were prosecuted, and with what result; and

(c) if acquitted, what action was taken against the policemen who arrested them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a). The Honourable Member presumably refers to an incident on the 26th November, 1944 when two persons were arrested who appeared to be attempting to organise a public meeting in Connaught Place, and had caused a crowd to gather.

(b) The persons in question were prosecuted under section 34 of the Police Act 1861, but were acquitted for want of evidence.

(c) The action taken by the Police was perfectly legal and no question of disciplinary action arises.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Was their arrest due to the fact that they had the Congress National Flag with them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Was any meeting held there at all?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: They attempted to organise a public meeting and caused a crowd to gather. So presumably the crowd was gathering

to form a public meeting, but whether it had actually begun to be a public meeting and ceased to be a crowd I cannot say.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the National War Front is allowed to hold meetings undisturbed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that National Flags hoisted in private houses have been removed forcibly by the police?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not as far as I am aware.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member take action if cases are brought to his notice?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I will take action if any illegality is brought to my notice; not on vague generalisations.

HEALTH OF DR. YUDHBIR SINGH

1085. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the latest report about the health of Dr. Yudhbir Singh; a Delhi defenu; and

(b) in view of the state of his health, whether Government has considered the question of his release?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Chief Commissioner Delhi informed me that he has no reason to believe that Dr. Yudhbir Singh is ill. He has received no report to that effect. Further enquiries are however being made, and the information received will be supplied to the House in due course.

WARRANT FOR ARREST OF MRS. ASAF ALI.

1086. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) when a warrant was issued for the arrest of Mrs. Asaf Ali;

(b) the grounds on which it was issued;

(c) whether Mrs. Asaf Ali's mother died recently and she could not attend the funeral; and

(d) whether Government contemplate cancelling the warrant of her arrest?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). A warrant for the arrest of Mrs. Asaf Ali was issued under sub-rule 5B of Defence of India Rule 26 on 18th March, 1943 and another under Defence of India Rules 38/39 was issued on the 18th February, 1944.

(c) The Government of India have no information, but I am told that she died about a year ago.

(d) No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is the warrant still pending?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes, I think so.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Has any property been attached?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I shall require notice of that question.

NON-GRANT OF COMPENSATORY HOUSE-RENT ALLOWANCE TO EXECUTIVE STAFF OF CUSTOMS HOUSES

1087. *Mr. Frank E. Anthony: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether the Government of India have granted a compensatory house-rent allowance to non-gazetted ministerial servants of the Central Government in Calcutta and Bombay including those employed in the Custom House?

(b) Is it a fact that such a compensatory house-rent allowance is not granted to employees in the executive cadres in the Custom House?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have rejected the request of these executive officers for a compensatory allowance on the terms granted to ministerial servants?

(d) What is the reason for this discrimination between the Executive and Ministerial staff in the Custom House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The concession of a house-rent allowance to the non-gazetted ministerial staff of the Central Government in Bombay and Calcutta was introduced at the same time as the unified scale of pay for ministerial staff as part of the scheme of revision of the emoluments for such staff so as to secure and retain the requisite number of qualified persons and to prevent drift between offices. The fact that Government considered that such an allowance could suitably form an element in the emoluments of one class of Government employees does not imply the need for, or suitability of, such an allowance entering into the emoluments of other Government servants such as the executive staff in the Customs Houses whose total emoluments are framed on a different basis.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is the Honourable Member aware that the introduction of these different scales of emoluments for persons in the same Department is causing a good deal of resentment?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am aware of the fact that when any adjustments are made in pay or conditions in any one class of service other Government servants, whether justified or not, expect it to be extended to them. That is one of the difficulties of administration.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will Government look into this question?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I believe the matter has already been looked into, but as my Honourable friend has drawn attention to it I have no doubt it will be looked into again.

COERCION USED IN VILLAGE BARARA (AGRA TEHSIL) FOR COLLECTING WAR LOANS

1088. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is not a fact that on the morning of January 30th, 1945, the Tehsildar of Agra, Mr. N. N. Kulshrestha, went to village Barara in the Agra Tehsil and temporarily took into custody Mr. Krishanchand Nagar and Mr. Thakur Nathoo Singh, abused them and threatened them with worse treatment because they refused to allow him to terrorise the local Kisans and thus collect subscriptions for war loans?

(b) Is it a fact that they entered the houses without any regard to the women inmates, abused the people, broke open locks of the houses of the two absentees, seized three tins of *meetha tal* of one Kanaihya Tailer, impounded the cattle of some Kisans and some people were beaten?

(c) Is it a fact that so far the complaints made to the District Magistrate about these coercive measures have only brought further threats upon the complainants?

(d) Will Government be pleased to assure the local public, through an open declaration from the District Magistrate that it is not the intention of Government to collect war loans by using any such coercive and inhuman methods?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (d). Enquiries have been made, and it has been ascertained that there is no foundation for the allegations made. Government therefore do not propose to take any action in the matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that similar allegations are being made widely in various parts of the country, will Government consider the advisability of making a categorical statement giving an assurance to the people that they will not be harassed if they do not contribute to these funds and that the subscriptions should be real ones and not compulsory collections?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I made it quite clear in my speech in the House the other day that the Government of India have no desire and are not disposed to encourage—and on the contrary they are entirely opposed to all forms of illegality or extortion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps do Government propose to take in order to bring that assurance to the notice of the public?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They have their ways of doing so, and I think it is generally realised that that is our attitude.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the Provincial Governments also—and specially the U. P. Government—about his intentions

in the matter, so that all the illegalities that have been committed may be avoided in future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have no reason to think that the U. P. Government are unaware of the views of the Government of India in this matter.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member opposite is also not unaware that the U. P. officials have been misbehaving, will the Honourable Member kindly draw their attention to his real intentions in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I regret I cannot accept sweeping statements such as that made by the Honourable Member. At the most I am prepared to admit that there may have been individual instances where zealous officials have overstepped the mark; but in regard to these we are already in correspondence with the Provincial Governments.

INSTRUCTIONS *EX PRIOR* SANCTION FOR PROSECUTION OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

†1089. ***Lala Sham Lal:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any further instructions have been issued by his Department in amplification, revision or amendment of the Government of India, Home Department Memorandum No. 62/41-Judicial, dated the 7th July, 1941, on the procedure of obtaining Governor General's prior sanction for prosecution of Government servants; and

(b) whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to the Railway Board's orders published in the North Western Railway Gazette, dated the 8th December, 1944, to the effect that prior sanction of the Governor General is necessary under section 270 of the Government of India Act, 1935, in prosecuting an employee for acceptance of illegal gratification, criminally misappropriating property in his possession or committing theft of Railway material; whether these orders are covered by any further memorandum of the Home Department; if so, whether the Honourable Member proposes to lay a copy thereof on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No.

(b) I have seen the *Gazette* notice. The Hon'ble Member has not quoted its contents correctly. It only repeats the instructions issued in the Home Department memorandum quoted by him.

TRIALS BY SPECIAL TRIBUNALS OF OFFENCES COMMITTED BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

†1090. ***Lala Sham Lal:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) what fundamentals are taken into consideration by Government in notifying that certain offences committed by Railway employees be tried by Special Tribunals;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railway employees charged with having accepted a few rupees illegal gratification, are challaned before Special Tribunals; if it is also a fact that some such cases are challaned by the Special Police, War Establishment, before the ordinary Magistrates, if so, the basis for distinction; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue instructions that the basis for distinction shall be that offences involving large sums of money and conspiracies be referred to Special Tribunals and the rest to ordinary courts; if not, what other basis Government propose to lay down for trial of such cases before Tribunals or courts?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The criteria followed by Government in recommending cases to His Excellency the Governor General for inclusion in the First Schedule to the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, for trial by Special Tribunals are;

First. That the cases fall within the jurisdiction of Special Tribunals in that they involve offences triable by Special Tribunals as specified in the

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

Second Schedule to the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1943; and

Second. That the cases are of sufficient importance. A case may be considered important for one or more of the following reasons:

- (i) The accused are men of influence.
- (ii) The offence involved is likely to impede the war effort.
- (iii) The case involves large sums of money on account of bribery, cheating, etc.

(iv) Cases where effective punishment is desirable. Thus, for instance, the amount of a bribe in a particular case may be small, but when there is reason to suppose that the particular offence is prevalent it is desirable that a deterrent sentence should be imposed.

(b) The answer to the first two parts is in the affirmative. As regards the third part, the basis for distinction is partly explained in my answer to part (a) of the question. A further consideration is that when the list of cases for trial before the Tribunal concerned is so full of pending cases that a fresh case cannot be taken up for several months, cases which would normally be placed before a Tribunal are placed before the ordinary courts.

(c) No, Sir. The criteria enumerated above will continue to be followed.

INSTALLATION OF BROADCASTING STATION AT BEZWADA OR RAJAHMUNDRY

1091. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government are considering any proposal for establishing a Broadcasting Station-at Bezwada or Rajahmundry (Madras Presidency); if so, at what stage the proposal is?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Plans for the Post War development of All India Radio are under preparation. It is not yet possible to indicate where the new broadcasting stations will be located, but the needs of the area referred to by the Honourable Member will be given due consideration.

TRANSMITTING CENTRES FOR RURAL PROPAGANDA

1092. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Has the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting evolved any scheme for establishing a large number of transmitting centres for rural propaganda?

(b) If so, what is the probable cost of the scheme, and how many centres are under contemplation?

(c) Have any orders been placed by Government for the purchase of transmitters and receiving sets from the United Kingdom or the U. S. A.? If so, when are they expected to arrive?

(d) Have Government taken any steps to manufacture by themselves or to encourage the manufacture of wireless receiving sets in India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No. The Government has not so far approved any scheme for establishing a large number of transmitting centres for rural propaganda.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(d) Radio sets and accessories are at present not manufactured in India. All possible assistance is, however, given to firms' representatives who approach Government, to proceed overseas in order to explore the possibilities of starting the industry in India,—provided, of course, the Government are satisfied with the *bona fides* of the firms.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Isn't it a fact that the Government five or six years ago prepared a model set which would cost Rs. 30—40?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not aware.

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

LUNCH TIME ENGLISH RECORDED MUSIC FROM DELHI RADIO STATION

1093. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state why it is that only English recorded-music is played from the Delhi Station of the All-India Radio at lunch time daily? What objection is there to playing Indian recorded-music during

that interval as a large number of Indian staff and others retire for lunch at that time?

(b) Why is English recorded-music introduced even in Additional South Indian Service programmes?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The Delhi Station broadcasts Indian recorded music from 12-00 Noon to 1-00 p.m. daily and European recorded music from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. daily. It has been found by experience that the earlier time suits the majority of Indian listeners, just as the latter time suits the majority of European listeners for what has been described as "lunch hour music".

(b) The Additional South Indian Service shares with the Madras Station, the responsibility of catering to the needs and tastes of listeners in South India. European music programmes are included in the broadcasts from the Additional South Indian Service because there is a wide circle of listeners in the South, both European and Indian, who are interested in European music.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is Government aware that so far as Government servants are concerned, the lunch hour for Indians is the same as the lunch hour for Europeans?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We have looked into the matter and we are prepared to re-examine this question.

RATES OF ROYALTY FOR INDIAN AND EUROPEAN MUSIC RECORDS BROADCASTS

1094. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the rates of royalty paid for the Indian music-records and European music-records, separately, per broadcast? And if there is any difference, the reasons therefor?

(b) Out of 1,93,506 receiver licences, how many are taken by Indians and how many by non-Indians?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) All India Radio obtain gramophone records from various gramophone companies. Their agreements with these companies do not provide for any discrimination in the payment per record for European music records as against Indian music records. It is regretted that further information with regard to rates of payment in respect of gramophone records and other copyright material is confidential and cannot be disclosed without prejudice to the interests of All India Radio.

(b) Figures of Indian and non-Indian licence holders are not maintained separately and the collection of this information would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if there was a single case where the payment for royalty for Indian records was equal to the highest payment of royalty for English records?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am sorry I cannot answer that question.

LANGUAGE SECTIONS IN PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

1095. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state how many language sections there are in the Publicity and Information Department? Is there any section for Telugu? If not, why not?

(b) Is the Honourable Member not aware that there is a large number of weeklies, dailies and periodicals in circulation among three crores of Andhras? If so, does he propose to introduce a Telugu Section also if there is none already?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The Bureau of Public Information handles publicity in five Indian languages, viz., Urdu, Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati and Tamil. Publicity in Telugu has not been undertaken and is not proposed as the number of newspapers published daily, bi-weekly or weekly in that language is small and the cost involved in running a section would not be commensurate with the advantages expected.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Is publicity not undertaken in Pushtoo language?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That does not arise out of the question.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Is Pushtoo considered a non-Indian language?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I think we are talking of civilized languages!

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is not the number of people who speak a particular language taken into consideration in establishing centres for propuganda in that language?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, Sir. We take into consideration the number of Dailies that are published in those areas.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how the number of Dailies or Weeklies affect this question?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It is a question of a language.

CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS

1096. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of the Civilian Gazetted Officers so far recruited as supplementary to military personnel holding charge of stores;

(b) how many of them are Hindus, Muslims, Scheduled Castes, Sikhs, Christians, Anglo-Indians, etc.;

(c) how many applications were actually received from the Scheduled Caste persons, and how many of them were rejected; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the applications of Scheduled Caste persons employed in Government Offices are not being recommended and forwarded by their immediate superior officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) 684.

(b) Hindus 472; Muslims 128; Scheduled castes *nil*; Sikhs 54; Christians 18; Anglo-Indians 6; Parsis and Jews 6.

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

(d) I have no information, but there are no reasons to believe that persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes are treated differently from others in this respect.

EXCISE DUTY ON BETEL NUTS IN CERTAIN MADRAS DISTRICTS

1097. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether betel-nuts harvested before the 1st March, 1944, were treated as pre-excise goods in the Provinces of Bengal and Bombay and that no duty was collected in respect of stocks of 1943-44 crop in those Provinces even though sold in April and May of 1944;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the districts of South Kanara, Malabar and Nilgiris stocks of betel-nuts that came to the market after the 3rd April, 1944, but harvested before the 1st March, 1944, were treated as excisable goods and that excise duty was levied;

(c) the total amount collected in respect of excise duty on betel-nuts in the following districts on crops harvested before the 1st March, 1944:

(i) South Kanara, (ii) Malabar, (iii) Nilgiris (iv) Coorg, and (v) Coimbatore;

(d) what evidence was insisted upon for treating betel-nuts as pre-excise goods in the district of South Kanara;

(e) whether it was ascertained what percentage of betel-nuts was harvested and cured in South Kanara, Malabar and Coorg before the 1st April, 1944, out of the 1943-44 crop; and whether any survey report was called for; if so, the finding in respect of each of the above areas; and

(f) whether it is a fact that representations received from traders and growers to refund the duty collected on betel-nuts harvested before the 1st March, 1944, are not attended to by the Department; if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 1097, 1098 and 1099 together.

I have called for reports and replies will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

PRE-EXCISE CERTIFICATES FOR BETEL NUT GROWERS AND TRADERS IN SOUTH
KANARA DISTRICT

†1098. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Excise Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors were authorized to issue certificates (pre-excise certificates) to growers and traders of betel-nuts in the South Kanara District; and

(b) whether such powers have been exercised by them, and whether there was any supervision on behalf of the Department to see that those powers were not mis-used?

EXCISE DUTY ON BETEL NUTS IN SOUTH KANARA DISTRICTS

†1099. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long after the sale of betel-nuts as non-dutiable goods, the Central Excise Department demanded a payment of excise duty to the extent of nearly Rs. 70,000 on those goods from the traders and growers in the district of South Kanara;

(b) whether it is a fact that coercive methods were used by the Central Excise Officers to realize the said demand;

(c) how much of the said demand has been collected; and

(d) whether any representations were received to refund the duty thus collected, and whether they are attended to by the Department?

EXCISE DUTY ON BETEL NUTS IN CERTAIN MADRAS DISTRICTS

1100. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether uncured betel-nuts (betel-nut with husk) sold as such to consumers in the market are liable to excise duty;

(b) whether he is aware that excise duty was collected on uncured betel-nuts taking the weight of the husk also into calculation in the following districts:

(i) South Kanara, (ii) Malabar, (iii) Nilgiris, and (iv) North Kanara; and

(c) the total amount collected in those respective districts, and whether Government propose to refund the same; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Duty is not levied on fresh betelnuts in the husk, which are sold by the grower direct to the individual consumer and which have not undergone any process of drying or of preservation in water.

(b) I understand that certain quantities of betelnuts-from which the husk had not been removed have, in the districts named in the question, been assessed to duty on their gross weight including the husk.

(c) The total amount of duty levied on such betelnuts is not immediately ascertainable. As a general rule, goods assessable by weight must, for obvious reasons, be assessed on their weight in the form in which they are presented for assessment. If the owner removes the husks or similar waste matter before assessment the goods can be assessed on their net weight. If he does not wish to do this but desires nevertheless to obtain remission of duty in respect of the waste matter, he can store his goods in a bonded warehouse and can apply for reassessment after the waste matter has been separated from the goods. For the convenience of small-scale producers of betelnuts, however, Collectors of Central Excise have been instructed that if betelnuts are presented for assessment while still in the husk they may be assessed on the net weight of the kernel as ascertained by actual weighing of representative samples and that applications for refund of duty in respect of nuts previously assessed on their gross weight should be admitted to consideration if made within three months from the date of payment of duty.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (c) of the question? May I know whether money will be refunded because they have been charged more?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1097.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have just said that instructions have been issued to Collectors of Central Excise that they should entertain applications for refund of duty in respect of nuts previously assessed on gross weight.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether enough time is given for the submission of applications for refund?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Three months seems to me quite a considerable time.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that these people are uneducated and do not know the law and may not come to know about it, will the Honourable Member issue instructions that refunds may be made by the action of the Department itself?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I will bring that suggestion to the notice of the Department.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Does the Honourable Member consider that betelnuts with husk are chargeable to excise duty under the rules?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Not fresh betelnuts in husk, but betelnuts that have been cured are liable to duty whether they have got the husk or not.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Can betelnuts with husk be considered as cured?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I understand that curing involves either the process of drying or preservation in water.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the majority of these are small holders owning not more than one acre of land?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid my knowledge on that matter is not sufficiently precise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the total number of these assesseses?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I shall require notice of that question.

RESTRICTIONS ON BETEL NUT CULTIVATION AND CURING IN CERTAIN MADRAS DISTRICTS

1101. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether he is aware that Central Excise Officers in the districts of South Kanara, Malabar, Nilgiris and Coorg insist upon betel-nut growers cultivating less than ten acres and curing less than 100 standard maunds to maintain accounts of betel-nuts harvested from time to time and cured in violation of the Central Excise Rule 21? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to issue instructions to the contrary? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The matter is being investigated and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

TOBACCO EXCISE DUTY FROM THE PUNJAB

1102. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total amount of revenue received from the tobacco excise duty from the Punjab in the years 1943-44, 1944-45 and what is the estimated income for the year 1945-46, together with the figures for the District of Shahpur in the Punjab?

(b) Into how many administrative circles has the Province been divided, and how many officers, including the inspectors and the supervisors are employed in each of the circles, for purposes of assessment? How many villages are under assessment in each of the circles?

(c) What is the method of assessment? In what percentage of cases does the assessing officer make the assessment at the spot? Is it possible for the assessing officers to visit all villages and make assessment in all cases at the spot? If not, on what basis is the assessment made?

(d) Is it a fact that the assessment is mainly based on the entries made in the Girdawari records of the Patwari and calculated on a uniform rate of yield per acre of the locality, fixed by the department? If so what remedy is there for a zamindar, whose tobacco cultivation area has been entered more,

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

by the Patwari, or whose yield of the crop is much less than the fixed rate or whose crop has been spoiled?

(e) Do Government propose to increase the survey and the assessing staff in order that over assessment is not made? If so, when and by how much in the Province of the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The total amount of tobacco excise revenue realised in the Punjab in 1943-44 was Rs. 24 lakhs and the revised estimate for 1944-45 is Rs. 51 lakhs. The estimated revenue for 1945-46 is Rs. 59 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the district of Shahpur are Rs. 49,000, Rs. 97,000 and Rs. 1,40,000.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) Tobacco is assessable to duty on its weight after curing. All assessments of tobacco in the Punjab are made at the spot. Where the curer retains his tobacco until the Central Excise Officer visits his village, the assessment is based on the actual weight of the tobacco; where the curer disposes of his product before it can be weighed, the officer serves on him a demand for duty based on the ascertained area of the land on which the tobacco was grown, multiplied by the average yield of tobacco land in the neighbourhood less a reasonable quantity for the personal consumption of the grower and his household. If the tobacco is sold to a licensed dealer possessing a bonded warehouse, the duty is realised, not from the curer, but from the dealer, and not until the tobacco is cleared from the warehouse. As the cultivation of tobacco in this province is in some areas extremely scattered, it is not possible for the officers to visit every curer after his tobacco has been cured and before it is made ready for market. To compel the curer to retain his tobacco until the arrival of the officer might unduly hamper his disposal of his products. No objection has, therefore, so far been taken to the sale of such tobacco before assessment and the liability of the curer under Rule 29 of the Central Excise Rules is calculated in the manner I have just described.

(d) No. The Central Excise Officer first records the area planted with tobacco, as declared by each grower, and then checks these declarations with the entries in the revenue records. If these figures are discrepant or there is any dispute as to the area actually cultivated by a particular grower, the matter is decided after inspection. If the yield of a particular field is less than average, the officer will, on application by the grower, determine the actual yield after local enquiry.

(e) The question of reinforcing the Central Excise staff in this province is under examination.

Statement showing administrative circles, the number of officers employed in each circle, and the number of villages under assessment in the Province of Punjab

The Punjab forms part of 4 Central Excise Divisions under Assistant Collectors and is divided among nine Circles in charge of Superintendents of Central Excise. The number of officers and staff employed in each of the Circles and the number of villages under assessment in the Punjab Portion of each Circle is as follows :—

Name of Circle	Superintendent	Deputy Superintendents	Inspectors	Supervisors	Number of villages under assessment
(1) Gujranwala	1	3	28	45	3198
(2) Lahore	1	3	27	29	1629
(3) Multan	1	3	37	50	3673
(4) Lyallpur	1	3	31	40	2726
(5) Jullundur	1	3	31	41	1987
(6) Ambala	1	3	22	26	1789
(7) Rohtak	1	2	11	16	1036
(8) Kangra	1	2	11	15	581
(9) Rawalpindi	1	2	11	12	355

N.B.—Rohak and Rawalpindi Circles also include parts of North West Frontier Province and Delhi Province which are not included in the above statement. Figures of villages under assessment represent number of tobacco growing villages.

ASSESSMENT OF EXCISE DUTY ON *HUKKA* TOBACCO LEAF

†1103. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware that the market value of the *hukka* tobacco-leaf depends on its quality?

(b) Are Government aware that the quality of the *hukka* tobacco very often gets deteriorated by sudden changes in the season, such as rain, etc., and inefficient handling of the leaf during the process of curing? If so, do Government give any consideration to this unavoidable deterioration in quality, while assessing the excise duty on the crop?

(c) In view of the heavy percentage of deterioration to which the crop is susceptible, do Government propose to make enquiries into the matter with a view to grade the tobacco-leaf for assessment purposes and to decrease or exempt the excise duty for inferior qualities of tobacco, which do not fetch any price in the market?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The duties of excise on tobacco are leviable on the basis of weight. Alterations in the value of a particular consignment due to deterioration or other causes cannot therefore, affect the amount of duty assessable on it. If any tobacco should deteriorate to such an extent as to be unable to command a sale it can be destroyed in the presence of a Central Excise Officer and the duty chargeable on it will then be remitted. If tobacco is used for agricultural purposes it is exempt from duty.

SYSTEM OF RECOVERY OF TOBACCO EXCISE DUTY

†1104. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the system of recovery of the tobacco excise duty? Is it recovered from the assessee through some official agency or have the assessee to make payments at the District or the Tehsil treasury themselves?

(b) Are Government aware that people are put to great trouble and expenses in going to the Government treasury to make payment? Do Government propose to consider the advisability of collection of the tobacco excise duty through the village *lambardars*, just as the land revenue is collected?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) When tobacco is to be cleared on payment of duty a demand note is delivered to the owner who may then pay the money into the treasury or, if the treasury is situated at a distance, may send it to the treasury officer by money order. Where a licensee has frequent payments to make, he may if he wishes, instead of paying duty separately on each consignment, maintain with the Collector an account-current of the duties payable on his tobacco. Such accounts must be settled at intervals not exceeding one month and the account-holder must periodically deposit sufficient money to cover the duty due on the tobacco which he intends to clear from his premises.

(b) Government are alive to the difficulty of making such payments in places which are distant from treasuries and, as instanced by the provision for the making of such payments by money order, are prepared to consider any practicable means of overcoming these difficulties. The payment of excise duty through the medium of village *lambardars* has not so far been found practicable.

FALL IN TOBACCO EXCISE REVENUE

†1105. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that there has been a fall in the estimated tobacco excise revenue in the year 1944-45 and that one of the main reasons of the fall in income is the decrease in tobacco cultivation?

(b) Are Government aware that non-cultivation tendency is increasing in Provinces? If so, what action do Government propose to take?

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

(c) How much amount is spent in the Punjab for promoting tobacco cultivation and what are its results?

(d) Do Government propose to give a wide publicity of rules and regulations for the assessment of the tobacco excise duty in villages and educate the public not to abandon the tobacco cultivation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) It is true that there was a substantial reduction in the cultivation of tobacco last year, which has resulted in a shortfall in tobacco excise revenue in 1944-45* but, as explained in my Budget speech, this reduction was mainly attributable to transport difficulties and to the drive in favour of food crops.

(b) No. The present crop is expected to be unusually large.

(c) A grant of Rs. 10 lakhs per annum has been placed at the disposal of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for improvement of tobacco cultivation and marketing in India as a whole. It is not intended to make individual allotments to Provinces.

(d) This is being done continuously.

EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO WOMEN IN POST-WAR SCHEMES

1106. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) if the Government of India recognise the principle of equal rights and opportunities as citizens for men and women, in all schemes for Post-war Reconstruction; and, if so, whether Government have given clear instructions to all Post-war Reconstruction Committees to bear this principle in mind during their deliberations; and, if not, why not;

(b) whether Government are giving their due attention to the interests of women and children in Post-war Planning, particularly with regard to problems of education, health and employment;

(c) whether Government propose to include in industrial planning a scheme for compelling employers to make specific arrangements for maternity and child welfare of the families of their employees; and

(d) if Government propose to examine the question of compelling employers to include the expenditure on medical, social and educational amenities for their employees in their budget estimates before permission is granted for starting new industrial or commercial concerns?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). These suggestions will be taken into consideration when preparing the Government's plans for labour conditions.

COST ACCOUNTANCY TRAINING TO INDIAN STUDENTS

†1107. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Mahtta: With reference to the scheme for sending 500 students abroad for courses in technical subjects will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) whether Government intend considering the desirability of sending some students abroad for training in Cost Accountancy;

(b) whether Government are aware of the importance the U. K. and other countries are attaching to the Cost Accountant who has come to be recognised as an indispensable factor in scientific management of every branch of industry and commerce;

(c) what steps Government are taking for having a sufficient number of Cost Accountants in the Country; whether Government contemplate providing facilities in India for training in Cost Accountancy; and

(d) if training facilities in India are likely to take long to mature, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of having some students trained abroad in good time to be of help in the post-war industrial reconstruction?

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

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Government are aware of the importance of Cost Accountancy as a factor in business management. The desirability of sending students abroad for higher training in Cost Accountancy will be considered.

DUTIES OF W. A. C. (I.) AND W. R. I. N. S.

†1108. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hedge:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) what are the duties of the officers and other ranks of the W. A. C. (I) and the W. R. I. N. S.;

(b) where and how far they undergo training and whether they receive training in warfare;

(c) whether they receive training for social duties of entertaining military officers in India; if so, what are those duties;

(d) whether any of them are sent to Burma front or to serve on the high seas;

(e) whether those duties assigned to them cannot be performed by men; and

(f) if the answer to (e) is in the negative, the reasons therefor, and if it is in the affirmative, the reasons for maintaining and continuing recruitment to these forces?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Members of the W. A. C. (I) and W. R. I. N. S. are not detailed for service outside India unless they volunteer to do so in writing. None of them is serving at sea.

(e) and (f). Their duties can be performed by men; they are recruited to make up the shortage of suitably qualified men.

Statement

(a) The duties of W. A. C. (I) including the W.R.I.N.S. are detailed below:

(i) W.A.C.(I) officers serving in the Army and Air Force are employed mainly in administrative, secretarial, catering, ciphering, signals and staff duties.

(ii) Other ranks (Auxiliaries) are employed mainly as clerks, stenographers, storewomen, cipher operators, key-board and switch-board operators, plotters and tellers, operators W/T., dispensers, laboratory assistants, mess caterers, parachute packers, tele-printer operators, telephonists, etc.

(iii) W.R.I.N.S. officers are employed on the following duties:

Administrative, communications, secretarial and staff appointments, special appointments—A/S movers, intelligence officers, publicity and propaganda officers, mess caterers, censor officers, dieticians and photographic officers.

W.R.I.N.S. auxiliaries are employed as communication watch-keepers, teleprinter operators, confidential book correctors, telephone switch operators, dome teacher operators, writer G. D., close range recorder analyser operators, mess petty officers.

(b) (i) *W.A.C.(I).*—Basic and clerical training is given in specially established centres at Calcutta, Rawalpindi, Ahmednagar and Patna. Officer Cadets training is carried out at Dagahai, whilst courses for officers, are held in Delhi and Quetta. All other training is given in units and establishments employing W.A.C.(I) personnel. No training is given in warfare.

(ii) *W.R.I.N.S. Officers.*—They are trained at H.M.I.S. "FEROZE" and H.M.I.S. "TALWAR", shore training establishment at Bombay.

W.R.I.N.S. Auxiliaries.—W.R.I.N.S. receive their preliminary training at the Inter-Services Basic Training centres at Calcutta and Ahmednagar. They then go to the R.I.N. Shore Training Establishments for further instruction. W.R.I.N.S. personnel are not given training in warfare.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF W. A. C. (I.) AND W. R. I. N. S.

†1109. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hedge:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the present strength of the (i) W. A. C. (I) and (ii) W. R. I. N. S. officers and other ranks; and how many of them are foreigners, Anglo-Indians, Christians, Muslims and Hindus;

(b) whether recruitment to these forces is being vigorously stimulated; and, if so, the reasons for it and the methods by which it is done;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that high pay, light work and job after the war are emphasised;

(d) whether it is not a fact that this recruitment has drawn women and girls from professions of nursing and teaching and these activities are suffering for want of hands; and

(e) if the answer to (d) is in the negative, whether Government propose to appoint a committee of responsible women to report on the subject referred to herein; if not, why not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I lay a statement on the table.

(b) Yes, Sir. There is still a large number of vacancies in the Corps. A direct appeal is being made to the public in order to stimulate interest and members of the Corps are encouraged to bring their friends.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Women with nursing experience are not eligible for enrolment into the Corps. Some members of the teaching profession have, however, joined the Corps. I have no information whether the profession has suffered thereby.

(e) No, Sir. Government do not consider that a committee is necessary.

Statement showing strength of (i) W. A. C. (I) and (ii) W. R. I. N. S. Officers and Auxiliaries

(i) The strength of the W. A. C. (I) (excluding unemployed) on 1st February, 1945, was:

(a) Officers	1,040
Auxiliaries	9,256
<i>W. A. C. (I.) W. R. I. N. S.</i>	

Included in above are:

(a) Officers	144
(b) Other ranks	663

(ii) Nationalities are as follows:

	Officers	Auxiliaries.
European British	767	1,405
Anglo-Indians	147	3,918
Indians —		
Hindus	16	585
Muslims	5	92
Sikhs	1	78
Parsoes	27	296
Christians	39	2,182
Jews	1	102
Others	8	160
Total Indians	97	3,495
Others (Anglo-Burmans, etc.)	29	438
Grand Total	1,040	9,256

SALARIES, ETC., OF W. A. C. (I.) AND W. R. I. N. S.

†1110. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the present salaries and allowances paid to the officers and other ranks of W. R. I. N. S. and the W. A. C. (I);

(b) their minimum age and educational qualifications;

(c) the measures taken by Government for their physical and moral welfare;

(d) whether the written consent of parents or guardians is required before they are recruited or before they are kept away from their home town; and

(e) whether they are likely to be sent abroad; and, if so, whether consent of their parents or guardians is obtained?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I lay a statement on the table.

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

(b) The reply to the first part is 17 years. As regards the second part, no definite educational qualifications are laid down. A knowledge of English and medium standard of intelligence are all that is required.

(c) Facilities for medical treatment and physical exercise are provided for all W. A. C. (I) and W. R. I. N. S. personnel. They are accommodated in W. A. C. (I) hostels under the supervision of trained W. A. C. (I) officers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No member of the Corps is detailed for service *ex-India* unless she volunteers to do so in writing.

Statement showing salaries and allowances of Officers and Auxiliaries of the W. A. C. (I) and W. R. I. N. S.

The existing rates of pay of W. A. C. (I) including W. R. I. N. S. are given below :—

Rank		Rate of pay
Officers W.A.C.(I)	W. R. I. N. S.	
Chief Commander	..	600
Dy. Chief Commander	..	550
Regional Commander	Chief Officer	500
Senior Commander	1st Officer	380
Junior Commander	2nd Officer	220
Subaltern	3rd Officer	175
2nd Subaltern	4th Officer	150

In addition staff corps and additional pay is admissible at 2/3rd of the rates admissible to male officers if such appointments were held by them.

Auxiliaries.

W. A. C. (I)	W. R. I. N. S.	
W. O. Class I	..	185
W. O. Class II	..	145
S/Sergeant	Chief Petty Officer	140
Sergeant	Petty Officer	110
L/Sergeant	Leading Auxiliary	100
Corporal	Do.	90
L/Corporal	Auxiliary (Specialised)	80
Private	Auxiliary (non-specialised)	65

Trade pay for specialist qualifications required for each type of job is admissible in addition. It varies with different trades.

LANDS REQUISITIONED FROM RYOTS AT KUMBLA, SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT

†1111. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the total area of lands under the following heads which were requisitioned from the ryots at Kumbla, South Kanara District: (i) rice-field, and (ii) betel-nut gardens;

(b) how many (i) houses, (ii) Hindu temples and (iii) mosques in this area are involved and what is the arrangement for regular worship and prayer in these religious institutions and whether votaries are permitted to attend these religious places;

(c) the number of people affected and rendered homeless by this requisition;

(d) whether the lands are going to be permanently acquired; if not, for what period they are requisitioned;

(e) the annual loss of rice, betel-nut, coconut and pepper brought about by these acquisition or requisition proceedings; and

(f) for what purposes these extensive areas are being requisitioned and whether any aerodrome that may be constructed is going to be a permanent one available for civil aviation?

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

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) (i) 595 acres, (ii) 180 acres.

(b) (i) 781, (ii) nine, (iii) one.

Access is allowed to worshippers on permits.

(c) So far as Government are aware, none have been rendered homeless. People have accommodated themselves mostly in the neighbouring villages.

(d) The lands have only been requisitioned. It is not possible yet to say for how long they will be required.

(e) The required information is being collected and will be furnished in due course.

(f) The lands have been requisitioned for urgent military needs.

APPOINTING SCHEDULED CASTE MEMBER ON FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1112. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheduled caste person has ever been appointed on the Federal Public Service Commission; if not, why not; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint a scheduled caste person on the Federal Public Service Commission if and when a vacancy occurs in future?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Leader of the House.

REQUISITIONING OF BUILDINGS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES IN BOMBAY

1113. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the editorial of the *Bombay Chronicle* (up-country edition), dated the 3rd March, 1945, headed "Abuse of power"?

(b) Have Government made any enquiry whether the scandals referred to therein are within the powers laid down in the Act, viz., that the authorities "shall interfere with the ordinary avocations of life and enjoyment of property as little as may be, consonant with the purpose of assuring the public safety and interest and the defence of British India"?

(c) Is it a fact that five thousand members of the civil population have been suddenly thrown out of their residences in Bombay during the last four weeks, including women, children, old and bedridden individuals and men directly or indirectly helping war effort?

(d) Is it a fact that Parsee, Hindu and Muslim Gymkhanas in Bombay have been requisitioned and acquired for military purposes, whereas the European Gymkhana, the Yacht Club and the Byculla Club have not been so requisitioned, and what are the reasons for this discrimination?

(e) Have Government received a representation requesting for the appointment of a committee to consider the question of improving accommodation or improvising houses in Bombay to meet with the continued and acute shortage caused by requisitions for Government of India generally and more particularly for the Defence Department?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are satisfied that the action taken has been within the powers conferred by the Act. Unfortunately it is not always possible to avoid a certain measure of inconvenience. I place on the table a copy of the *Communique* which was issued a few days ago by the Government of Bombay in this connection.

(c) So far as I am aware no one has been suddenly thrown out of his residence. Whenever possible, only such accommodation is requisitioned as is vacant or used only partially or occasionally. In all cases sufficient time is given to the parties concerned to remove their personal effects.

(d) The Parsee, Hindu and Muslim Gymkhanas have been requisitioned because they comprised a large compact area on the Reclamation facing the sea which was required for military needs. The other buildings referred to by the Honourable Member were not suitable for the purpose.

(e) None has come to my notice. But a Standing Quartering Board which will consist of civil and military representatives and also include non-officials is being set up in Bombay to consider questions of policy and screen all demands for accommodation.

Press Communique

The attention of the Government of Bombay has been drawn to recent criticisms of its requisitioning policy, many of which are believed to be based on insufficient understanding of the present war situation.

2. The success of the war effort in the West has made and will make possible a more vigorous prosecution of the war in the East to bring about a decisive victory as quickly as possible, bringing with it the necessity for further accommodation to meet urgent Military requirements. The Commander-in-Chief has recently pointed out that Bombay will be the most important port in India for this purpose.

3. It should therefore be clear that increased inconvenience may be unavoidable in Bombay where the problem of accommodation has already become acute and the Government is confident that a common desire for a decisive and early termination of the war in the East will provide the fullest co-operation in shouldering this increased burden.

4. The Government, in consultation with the Area Commander, is fully alive to the necessity of evolving a policy which will be productive of the minimum hardship. While it will not be possible in the same manner as before to assist those who have to vacate their residences to obtain alternative accommodation, every effort will be made to avoid inconvenience and to give assistance to regular residents of the city as compared with its floating population and to those whose presence is essential to the war effort and to ensure that the burden falls on those most able to bear it. In the meantime each department of the Forces is reviewing the accommodation at its disposal to ensure its most economical use.

5. It has been urged that temporary residential accommodation should be constructed and the possibility of doing this to a limited degree is under consideration. It is, however, necessary to emphasize the acute shortage of building materials and the transport difficulties in bringing these to Bombay in large quantities. Such materials as are available are in fact fully earmarked for other more important operational requirements in Bombay and elsewhere.

6. In particular the Government of Bombay and the Military authorities appeal to those citizens who are able to provide substantial accommodation in their houses, or who own more than one residence in Bombay or elsewhere, or office and storage accommodation which can be spared, or who can move to smaller residences, to place such accommodation at its disposal in order to lessen the disturbance of the normal life of the city.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May we know whether Government will take into consideration the great hardships on the citizens of Bombay acknowledged now by the Governor of Bombay himself, and whether, in view of this, Government will undertake more buildings for the requirements of the military outside the urban area so as to avoid such inconvenience?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I cannot do better than quote from the *press communique* a copy of which I am laying on the table:

"The Government (of Bombay), in consultation with the Area Commander, is fully alive to the necessity of evolving a policy which will be productive of the minimum hardship."

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will further buildings be undertaken in order to avoid these hardships, especially in view of the fact that Bombay is now declared to be the most important port in the base for the war?

Mr. Ram Chandra: This will be considered.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know what exactly is meant by the words 'sufficient time'? How many days or weeks notice is given?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I do not know exactly. But so far as I am aware there is no definite time limit fixed. I know in one case where a notice of requisitioning was given, the people who were to be evicted were told that they could stay on until the middle of June, if they so wished.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: How many days notice is given in actual practice?

Mr. Ram Chandra: It varies.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The European Gymkhana and one or two other buildings have not been requisitioned and a large number of Indians have been thrown out of their houses. May I know if Government will consider the question of accommodating these people in these European buildings which have not been requisitioned?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The question of providing alternative accommodation for the people who may be evicted is already receiving consideration.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Why not accommodate these people in the buildings which you have not yet requisitioned?

Mr. Ram Chandra: These are required for other purposes.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask the Honourable Member whether Government's attention has been drawn to the debate that took place in the Bombay Municipal Corporation at a special meeting called for this purpose?

Mr. Ram Ohandra: No, Sir. I have not seen the proceedings of this debate.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member look into it?

Mr. Ram Ohandra: Yes, Sir.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member try to benefit by that debate?"

(No reply was given.)

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

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: This is a very important question, Sir. I do not think the Government realize the gravity of the situation. . . .

Mr. Manu Subedar: I crave your indulgence, Sir. This is a very important matter. People are being thrown out on the pavement in Bombay.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that a large number of refugees, some of whom have no work in Bombay, are just now occupying flats which have not been requisitioned?

Mr. Ram Ohandra: I am afraid I cannot answer this without notice.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member take note of it and draw the Bombay Government's attention to it and recommend that every refugee should be asked to leave Bombay?

Mr. Ram Ohandra: Government will consider this.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that there is a large number of refugees practising in Bombay with very little work to do and are occupying whole buildings?

(No answer.)

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

TRANSFER OF CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO THEIR PROVINCES

1114. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the members of the Congress Working Committee have been transferred to their respective provinces;

(b) whether they asked for such transfer and whether it is done under the initiative of the Government of India;

(c) if they have been transferred, which persons have been transferred to which jails; and

(d) whether the proposed operation on Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant has been performed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). The Members of the Congress Working Committee did not ask to be transferred, and the decision to transfer them was entirely that of the Government of India. I have so far received no information that any of the transfers has taken place.

(d) No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that the Government of India is not releasing them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think that does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to his answer, have they expressed a wish not to be transferred?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not as far as I am aware.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Government transfer them to the N.W.F. Province?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If they so desire!

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Was the question of transfer put to them and were they consulted in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have already stated that they did not ask to be transferred and the decision was entirely that of the Government of India:

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Were they consulted in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Why is this operation of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant being delayed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As soon as he arrives in the United Provinces he will be operated on.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: When will he arrive?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, Order.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

FACILITIES TO MR. JAI PRAKASH NARAIN

91. Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Othttiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) who the present companions of Mr. Jai Prakash Narain are;

(b) whether he is allowed to get all periodicals, books and newspapers; and

(c) whether the matter of putting up a case against him has been finally decided?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Mr. Jai Prakash Narain's companions are Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and one or two others.

(b) Yes, as allowed under the United Provinces Security Prisoner's Rules.

(c) No.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Ardesahir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development for the year commencing 1st April, 1945."

Sir, I promise the fullest co-operation to this Committee and I am sure that I and my Department will profit by the help it may receive from it.

Sir, I move:

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development for the year commencing 1st April, 1945."

I find that there are some amendments to this motion. The first one wants the word "eight" to be substituted by the word "ten".

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

"That for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted."

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

"That for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The Honourable Sir Ardesahir Dalal: I accept it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is another in the name of Mr. Essak Sait. But this is contrary to the notification of the Government by which these Standing Committees are established.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Surely we in this House should have the right to decide what powers these Committees should have?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is not in order. It has been agreed to by the Select Committee that it must be left to the Executive Government by proper notification to form the Committee and define its scope. That has been done in pursuance of the deliberations and the conclusions arrived at by the Committee on the amendment moved by Mr. Essak Sait to Standing Order.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Have you ruled it out, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I hold the motion out of order.

The next one is also regarding the Planning and Development Department. That also goes out.

The question is:

"That for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Some Members want to speak on the motion, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All right.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: As the House must realise and the Honourable Member himself must realise that this is a very important Department and there has been so much discussion in the House and certain demands were made last Session and also this Session and my Honourable friend has never committed the Government to anything as to what they are going to do in regard to consulting this House on the plans that are being submitted to them. I hope my Honourable friend will make a statement accepting in spirit and in meaning the demand contained in the amendments which I was not allowed to move. My vote for this Committee will depend upon the assurance which my Honourable friend will give. If he is able to satisfy the House, then I shall also be satisfied.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): I want to know as a matter of information what the relation of this Committee will be with the Policy Committee. So far all planning work has been conducted in the Policy Committee which has a personnel largely official and it would be derogatory to the position and dignity of this House if this Advisory Committee or Standing Committee which is being instituted will be a sort of appendage or will hold a position inferior to that of the Policy Committee, which is already in existence. I would like, for myself, that the Policy Committee should go as soon as this Committee is appointed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of this motion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I want the Honourable Member to make it clear, as our vote will necessarily depend on what sort of assurance he is able to convey and whether the Standing Committee of the House

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Assurance on what?

Mr. Manu Subedar: As to the relative position of the two committees. There are two committees working, one to be appointed by this House and the other one, the Policy Committee, which is already working. I do not know whether the Committee of this House is to hold an inferior position, whether it is to be in a subordinate position to the Policy Committee, which is already functioning. In fact I would suggest an amalgamation of the two Committees in some manner.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member seen the notification in the Gazette?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Yes, Sir. I maintain that it is not a satisfactory position, that the Committee appointed by this House will be in an inferior position and will be purely advisory in capacity and will not be framing from time to time the policy of the Government in the same sense in which the Policy Committee is doing at present. I want the Committee of this House

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can vote against the motion. This is not in order.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am only asking as to the position of this Committee appointed by this House in relation to the Policy Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It does not arise out of this motion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I would like to ask the Honourable Member one important question, so that he may give me a reply. I want to know whether it is within the purview of his Department to plan out the question of re-employment of the large number of demobilised soldiers and retrenched personnel who are now employed in the various offices.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of this.

The Honourable Sir Ardesahir Dalal: As I have already stated in moving the motion, the Committee can rest assured that it will have my fullest co-operation and within the lines laid down by the report of the Standing Committee

which has just been issued, I shall co-operate with them to the utmost extent.

As regards my friend, Mr. Essak Sait's amendment which has been ruled out of order, amendment No. 2 raises the whole issue which has already been discussed and it is no use going into it again. As for the third amendment which says that "for the purpose of examining all schemes of planning and development prepared by various Departments of the Government of India and suggesting therein such modifications as may be necessary", that seems to me to be somewhat superfluous, because if this Committee is going to advise my Department, then naturally it is open to it to suggest modifications which will of course be taken into account. It is on those lines that I propose to work with the Committee.

Regarding my friend Mr. Manu Subedar and his difficulty with regard to the Policy Committees, the justification for the Policy Committees is this: that there are issues involved which not only concern this Legislature but also some interests beyond the purview of this Legislature; for instance, there are representatives of Indian States on the Policy Committees and there are representatives of the Provincial Governments on the Policy Committees. But I can assure my friend Mr. Manu Subedar that even the recommendations of the Policy Committees will be put before this Committee, so that this Committee will not be in any position of inferiority to the Policy Committees. On the contrary, they will have within their purview the recommendations of the Policy Committees also.

As for my friend, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's question on the re-employment of the demobilised soldiers, this also will come within the purview of this Committee like any other question. I hope that these assurances are satisfactory to the House and that the motion will be adopted without a division.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development for the year commencing 1st April, 1945."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

Sir Olaf Caroe (Secretary, External Affairs Department): With your permission, Sir, as it has been the general trend to raise the number in these committees I have now provided 'five' for 'three' in my motion. I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan and the tribal areas for the financial year 1945-46."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan and the tribal areas for the financial year 1945-46."

Do you want to move your amendment to substitute 'ten' for 'five'?

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Yes, Sir.

I move:

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

Last time when these motions were before the House, the House indicated that it was not satisfied with the small representation provided. Every part of the House, every Party, every interest has to be represented, and we whips find it difficult to accommodate everybody. That is why, Sir, I move for 'ten'.

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

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

Sir Olaf Caroe: Sir, I would like to meet the House in a spirit of reasonable compromise. This is a new Committee, Sir, and I think, in spite of what has fallen before in the course of the debate, there is a certain amount

[Sir Olaf Caroe.]

to be said for keeping this Committee within reasonable limits. As men of affairs I think Members of this House will agree that there is a certain need for keeping the number within certain limits, if real, useful business has to be done by this body, and as we are starting the Committee might perhaps be a little one, that is, within manageable proportions. I think it is a little going too far to have as many as ten, if I may say so: perhaps the Honourable Member will be prepared to compromise on eight.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: I accept it.

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

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

The motion was adopted.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan and the tribal areas for the financial year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election for the financial year 1945-46, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election for the financial year 1945-46, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

Mr. Sami Venkatchelam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): I do not want to move my amendment.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I do not want to move my amendment.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election for the"

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I want to speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I did not know Honourable Member wanted to speak.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What I wanted to say was this. When Sir James Grigg was the Finance Member he circulated a memorandum to the Leaders of the Parties regarding the reconstitution of the Finance Committee; he also spoke on the subject during the budget discussion in 1938. He suggested that an Estimates Committee should be formed with 15 Members of this House, all of whom would be elected by this House from the non-official Members of the House. He also suggested that a non-official Chairman might be elected by the members of that Committee. He further suggested that this Committee might suggest economies in the various Departments of the Government of India: each year certain Departments would be placed before this Committee for examination as regards retrenchment and economy that could be effected, and in a period of three or four years the entire budget of the Departments of the Government of India would have come under the scrutiny of this particular Committee. These were the terms he circulated in a memorandum to the Leaders of the Parties. The Leaders were in favour of a non-official Chairman, but they did not agree to the substitution of the Standing Finance Committee by this Committee for Estimates, so far as the Standing Finance Committee's functions and powers as at present constituted, are concerned. The Standing Finance Committee can scrutinise all new proposals for expenditure: it can scrutinise supplementary estimates, but the Standing Finance Committee does not enter into the activities of the Department, it cannot suggest

retrenchment or economy with respect to any item. That function also was sought to be added to the Committee for Estimates. I would like the Honourable Finance Member to give the assurance that he will enlarge the functions of the Standing Finance Committee so as to include the functions of the Committee for Estimates which was suggested by his predecessor. I find that this subject came up for consideration before the Select Committee on Amendment to Standing Orders—you were one of the members, my Leader was a member, and in para. (8) of its report it is stated:

"In the case of the Finance Department we have taken note of the fact that the Standing Finance Committee is now holding special informal meetings to consider how its functions can be more effective, and how it can be more closely connected with the Department, and we agree that in these circumstances it would be premature to consider the setting up of an additional Committee."

I would like to know from the Honourable Finance Member whether he has come to any conclusion regarding the enlargement of the scope of the Standing Finance Committee. Later, on page 4, it is said that any Department named in rule 2 may at its option move for the election of members to two or more Committees to advise on different categories of subjects handled in the Department, provided that where two or more Committees are constituted for a Department the subject matters assigned to the Committee shall substantially embrace in the aggregate all the subjects handled in the Department. The present Standing Finance Committee as constituted, and for which my Honourable friend has made a motion, does not cover all the subjects of his Department. Therefore, there is a lacuna, and to fill it up a Committee for Estimates is necessary. I would like to know therefore at what stage that proposal is.

I do not propose to press for the appointment of a non-official Chairman because it is only an advisory body, and the advice has to be given to the Finance Member. Without his presence any advice that may be tendered will have to be given through a different channel, and he may or may not agree. Therefore I do not press for a non-official Chairman, but I do want an assurance from the Honourable Finance Member that he will enlarge the scope of the Standing Finance Committee.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): The proceedings of this committee are published and circulated to Members; but I find that just before or at the time of the introduction of the general budget, all the proceedings, even of meetings held several months before, are supplied to Members. I hope that in future the Honourable Finance Member will see that the proceedings, when they are published, should be supplied to the members of this House.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, I want to raise only one point for the information of this House as well as for eliciting some information from the Honourable Finance Member. In the last six years, the proportion of voted to non-voted expenditure has gone down from 47 to 30 per cent. in other words, by causes which are well known to the Finance Member as well as to Members of this House. What has happened is that the amount of control of this House which was intended and which was in operation for a long time before has automatically come down from 47 per cent. to 30 per cent. Now, what I want to know is this: that if the other expenditure is not voted, is it still the kind of expenditure falling on this country about which no information of any kind should be vouchsafed, not even in this House whenever it is asked? I want to know whether full particulars of the total expenditure will be put before the Standing Finance Committee and their advice sought thereon. This is a matter of privilege of this House: I know that there are attempts outside to ridicule this House: I know that there are many attempts on the part of the Treasury Benches to put down, to stifle inquiry, to refer us, when we ask for information, either to the last budget or to the next budget speech in which we do not find the information so promised. I know that we are called upon to vote large items about which the House knows nothing, about the propriety of the expenditure, about the wastefulness or economy or the suitability of expenditure we have no information

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is really dealing with a very wide and general question.

Mr. Mann Subedar: All right, I will confine myself to the point. If a Standing Finance Committee is being instituted, I urge that it is absolutely essential that the whole range of expenditure should be placed before it and that the distinction of non-voted and voted, whatever its meaning may be so far as the voting of this House may be, the distinction does not apply, I maintain, to the giving of such information to the members of the Standing Finance Committee and to this Assembly. I hope the Honourable Finance Member will give some assurance to this House.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, as I made clear in my reply the other day to the debate on the cut motion of the European Group in regard to economy, the scope of the functions of the Standing Finance Committee has been enlarged during the last year and it has taken a somewhat flexible form. There are now, besides the ordinary meetings of the Standing Finance Committee to consider proposals put before it by the departments, special informal meetings of that committee. Now, in those meetings discussion is of a very free character; and in particular I personally have taken the opportunity of those special meetings to invite the committee itself to make suggestions about the manner in which they feel they could most usefully proceed. Now, we have not yet completed that inquiry; we took up certain specific matters. The position still remains that as far as I am personally concerned the Standing Finance Committee in its informal session is at liberty to make proposals to the Finance Member for regulating its own procedure and the subjects which it will tackle. Now, I am in the difficult position that I will not henceforth be in charge of, or be present at, the deliberations of the committee; and it is quite clear that in a situation like that and with the somewhat fluid position in regard to the functions of the committee, I cannot give categorical replies to the questions asked by Members of this House. It must be for the Finance Member of the day to participate in the discussion as to what should be the new functions of the Standing Finance Committee. I have no reason to think that my successor who, as I mentioned the other day, is a man of very great experience and broad outlook in these matters, would take any different view from what I have taken myself. At the same time it must be clear that there are certain limitations imposed, I will not say by the constitution, but by the realities of the matter. The last speaker referred to the decline in the percentage of voted expenditure in the total expenditure. Is that saying any thing more than that defence expenditure has very greatly increased and become a much larger proportion of the total budget? In relation to defence expenditure, it is quite clear—whether in this country or in any other country—that the functions of a parliamentary committee must be very limited. A very large part of that expenditure is closely bound up with operational activities, and I could not undertake to produce before the committee high military officers in charge of operational activities who could give them a satisfactory explanation of how expenditure had been incurred or was being incurred, in certain military activities. What I have said to the Standing Finance Committee is that as far as possible and as far as security and similar considerations permitted, I personally was prepared not to emphasise or almost to ignore the difference between voted and non-voted expenditure: that is to say, take for instance, certain supply activities or even certain activities in regard to the construction of military works—I was quite prepared so far as this could be done without impinging on security matters, to endeavour to produce before the committee witnesses whether of the Finance Department or of any other department, who could assist the committee to understand the way in which expenditure was proceeding or had grown under these heads which ordinarily are not subject at any rate to the vote of this Legislature. I do not say that anything more than that could be attained. The procedure, as I say, is highly flexible but it must be for the Finance Member of the time in consultation with the military authorities and with his own department to say how far he could properly and usefully allow the committee or assist the committee to investigate these matters which fall outside its

ordinary scope. I hope that what I have said will reassure Members who have raised doubts about the functions of the Committee.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadian Urban): On a point of information, may I ask whether the Honourable Finance Member expects that the scope and functions of the Standing Finance Committee will be the same as laid down by Sir Malcolm Hailey in 1921?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I would advise the Honourable Member to think rather in terms of adjusting ourselves to the needs of today, and not to those of 1921. I have previously gone over the points in regard to the suggestions made by Sir Malcolm Hailey at a time when he had had no experience of how such a committee might work. I think that what we are doing now is much more likely to result in some useful outcome and also in my opinion it is much more likely to meet the real desire of this House than what was provisionally forecast by Sir Malcolm Hailey and what in effect he found it impossible to carry out.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: May I know what the position of the Honourable the Finance Member is on this committee?, I don't think he is going to stand for election as a member

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My successor will I presume, be nominated a Member of the Assembly and he will be nominated to this committee. He will be the Chairman of the committee.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Is he that member who will be nominated by the Governor General?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That this Assembly do proceed to the election for the financial year 1945-46, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a Member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following committees, namely:

	Date for Nomination.	Date for Election.
(1) Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development.	20th March	23rd March.
(2) Standing Committee for the External Affairs Department.	21st March	27th March.
(3) Standing Finance Committee	21st March	27th March.

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

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion of the Finance Bill.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. President, the other day I was dealing with the Finance Member and his management or mismanagement of our finances. I wish to say that there is one great difference between him and his predecessor, Sir James Grigg. With all his faults, Sir James Grigg seems to have had a soft corner for our agriculturists and peasants. Therefore it was during his time that one crore grant came for rural development but on the other hand this Honourable Member has been trying to neglect our peasants. He is shifting the burdens of even agricultural research on to the shoulders of our peasants. He has shifted the cost of maintaining the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research on to the

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shoulders of the peasants by levying a cess on their exports and other goods. Then, Sir, he proposes to establish a number of funds and cess committees for various commodities to be maintained also not at the cost of the Government of India but at the cost of the peasants themselves. In this way he has been trying his best to disavow all responsibility for improving the status of our peasants and increasing their economic status. Then, Sir, I come to the commodity taxes. I do not propose to go into the details. My Honourable friend Mr. Hegde will later on deal with the difficulties experienced by our betel nut growers and also by our tobacco growers. I only wish to say this much. Those millions of peasants are today being harassed in a cruel manner. Into their homes the officers of the Central Board of Revenue are entering with impunity and they are subjecting them to all kinds of indignities and they are asking our illiterate and unorganised peasants to obtain any number of licences, to give satisfaction to any number of dictates of the Central Board of Revenue and their agents and in addition to that, although they do not have sufficient credit at their own disposal, they are asked to give security for the quantities of betel-nut and tobacco by their pledging to keep it in their own homes and storing them there. The Honourable Member may say 'Very well, while I was mismanaging your finances, you did not happen to be in this House. You were in jails. Therefore you have no right to criticise us'. But there was a Member on that bench sitting by the side of my Honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raisman, and co-operating with him in the conduct of this war as well as in the conduct of the finances of this war. That was his former colleague Mr. N. R. Sarkar. Let us see what he has to say in regard to the manner in which this Government is mismanaging the affairs of our country:

"But what other foreign nations have to know of India is that in the past she had been successfully balked of a sound system of currency and exchange, that her industrial development and economic progress were retarded, that her banking system was ill-developed and that on the whole she was ill-fitted either to serve herself or make her proper contribution to the progress of world economy."

This is what he said in 1944 in the course of a booklet on "Problems of Indian Currency and Exchange". I need not add anything more to this, except one sentence. It is this:

"India has the resources to manage her currency and exchange in the best interests of her people. But if she is to make her contribution to international financial regulation, she must insist on acting as an independent entity and not as an inconsequential appendage of Great Britain."

My friend went to the International Monetary Conference and allowed India to act there and to feature there as an inconsequential appendage of Great Britain. My Honourable friend nods his head. So many people give him credit for having fought for India. He fought in a very unsuccessful manner. But why was he unsuccessful? The Americans were prepared to give only one seat to the British Empire. My Honourable friend was not prepared to tell his own people 'For God's sake, give up India and treat her as your ally. Then she can vote for herself and in that way you can exercise two votes, as friends and colleagues who are partners'. Therefore I say that the Honourable Member has failed and India cannot be grateful to him.

I now come to the Home Member. He is not here. He told us this morning that he is not thinking of releasing the members of the Congress Working Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already dealt with all the departments one by one.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Not with the Home Department.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on repeating himself.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: All these years Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was not released in public interest. Where is that public interest now? Within 24 hours of the Congress Ministry coming into power he was released and the Heavens have not fallen, British Imperialism has not been destroyed and my friend is not taking his ticket to go back to England. Why is it then that the

members of the Congress Working Committee are still being kept in jail. It is a huge joke. They want to frustrate our people, cow down our people. Although our people do not have any arms in their hands, they refuse to be cowed down. They are spiritually free and we are going to be free, whether you like it or not. The moment they released Mahatma Gandhi, thanks to God, there is a man who can dispense justice between them and us. The moment Mahatma Gandhi was released, the sense of frustration has gone out of the minds of the people of this country. And so long as Mahatma Gandhi is free in this country, it does not matter how many people you put into jail. We are free spiritually and we shall be citizens of a free country in a very short time, whether you like it or not.

I now come to the Food Department. I cannot discuss the activities of this Department at length, because I have set myself my own time limit on my speech, but I wish to make a number of suggestions. Before I make these suggestions, I wish to read out to the House two short extracts from two letters addressed to me on 14th March, 1945, from Tindivanam, South Arcot District, Madras Presidency where they refer to the freezing of the peasants' crops. I do not know whether the House has any idea of what it means, this freezing of crops. They know what it means when it comes to freezing of cloth stocks or yarn stocks. But this is nothing when compared to the freezing of peasants' crops. Here we are concerned with lakhs of peasants. Their standing crops are frozen, they are not allowed to cut, or reap or harvest the crops, they are not even allowed to take the grain to their homes unless they have the permission of the official and satisfy him in every possible way. Who are these so-called officials? They are petty village officers, *talayaris*, drawing a salary of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 a month and our peasants are left to the mercy of these officers. Look at the result. This is what the above letter says:

"Now, the Grain Purchasing officer is going about the villages and is enforcing the terms of the order. He overestimates the yield from an acre and asks the peasants to give according to his estimate. In these parts, we received rains only very late and as a result of it, the yield is even 50 per cent. below normal. While so, the Grain Purchasing officer is compelling peasants to give paddy according to his estimation. Even peasants who do not own nor cultivate four acres are also asked to supply paddy. Grains that are left with us will last only for two or three months. Oral representations are not heeded to. In taking away the grain the normal requirements of either the family or the village is not taken into consideration. It is feared that this action of the Grain Purchase officer will tell upon the lives of the population."

This is one sorry tale of woe from the South Arcot District in Madras Presidency.

The other letter from Tindivanam says:

"Dry crops such as ragi and millets have also failed and the yield is ranging from 10 to 30 per cent. The agricultural labourer and the other lower class population of the village who are mainly dependent on the dry crops for their sustenance are left without any provision for major part of the year."

"It would be far better if ration is introduced in villages and the village population is assured of supplies at the rationed scale till the next harvest."

This is another tale of woe of our peasants. I therefore suggest that rural rationing should be introduced into our villages, if Government have to assure themselves that food famine is not extended artificially by their Grain Purchase officer and by their mismanagement of their food procurement activities. There must be equal rations between rural and urban areas so that whatever ration is given to the urban people, at least that much ought to be given to rural people also. In actual fact, the rural people ought to get more because they work much harder.

The next point is fixing of maximum price. We do not want this maximum price. They call it ceiling price. What we want is definite specific price at which the Government are prepared to purchase, and purchase all that we are prepared to offer to them. I assure you that you will not need these grain purchasing officers and issue of executive orders, because the peasants have no other use for their surplus produce except sell them and get a few rupees to pay their taxes, their dues to the money lenders and other people. If you

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

do not fix a specific price, what happens is this. In actual practice you give licence to purchase this grain only to one or two people in any one of the districts. These people have a sort of monopoly and they can refuse to purchase, they can do what they like. When they refuse to purchase, naturally the prices go down. This is happening in a number of districts in South India. The price today in specified markets are much lower than maximum prices, much lower than economic prices. In order to save the peasants, it will be the kindest thing that you can do if you fix a specific price and purchase all the surplus produce that the peasants are prepared to sell and place at your disposal. At the same time we do not want you to take away all the produce from the village. You must have as much grain as is absolutely needed for the whole year for all the people in the village. Do not leave it in the hands of these landlords. You must collect the harvest from the landlords and keep it in co-operative store or with the local *panchayat* and then see that proper rationing is introduced through them and make food available for all agricultural workers who are not employed on land during several months in the year. We also want Government monopoly procurement, if it is possible. This is not impossible. In fact what is happening is monopoly procurement without calling it so; in fact there is not much difference. They have monopoly procurement free from all the responsibilities of monopoly procurement. The peasant must be associated with this organisation charged with fixing price. Therefore a specific price should be fixed and grains should be purchased in whatever quantities we are prepared to give, so that you take them as a monopoly and we need not be troubled by all these middlemen, the merchants and others.

The next point I wish to touch is about Food councils. These food councils now consist of only *johukums*. They are not conversant with the needs of peasants. The Food Department is now entirely divorced from the feelings of peasants and their co-operation. If the Food Department is really anxious to have the co-operation of the peasants, then they must reconstitute the Food Council and see that it contains at least a majority of peasants on them. We want more and more warehouses to be built. The Honourable Member said that he is thinking of having some warehouses as a post-war policy. We do not want them only as post-war policy. We want the Food Member to set apart a few crore of rupees and if necessary go ahead with the construction of these warehouses, and if possible a number of elevators also at big railway junctions so that our produce can be stored there and no damage need be experienced as has been happening in the recent past. We may be able to get the stuff there in anticipation of purchase on payment by Government later on.

We also want, Sir, minimum price fixed. I understand a departmental committee was appointed consisting wholly of officials. If there are one or two non-officials, representing genuine peasants, it will be good. I think Sir Theodore Gregory suggested that there should be a Standing Price Committee. Government have not yet established that committee as suggested by Sir Theodore Gregory. There should be representatives of producers and also representatives of your Department on that committee. At present the officers of your Department do not know the requirements of peasants.

Then, I wish to refer to the quality of foodstuff supplied to consumers. This should improve. I do not mean to say that our peasants are adulterating the foodstuffs that they sell. The peasants sell them pure, but it is these middlemen and ordinary traders who do the mischief and adulterate the food-grains. There are the licencees and monopolists created by yourself who mix mud, or soak the grains in water, and play havoc with the foodgrains before they are sold to the consuming public. Thus the quality gets deteriorated. You are appointing an inspection staff, but that is not enough. You must invoke the co-operation of peasants, also, from these producing centres, and

also the co-operation of the consumers from the consuming centres. It is only then that both parties will be satisfied about the quality of foodgrains.

I now come to San Francisco delegation. Two of my Honourable friends are going there. I have no personal quarrel with either of them. It is quite possible that man to man, they are quite as capable as others who may be sent on behalf of other countries. The Government of India representatives go there as nominees of the Executive Council, whereas the other delegates who go to the conference will go there as elected representatives of their respective legislatures and also of their respective governments. That makes a world of difference. These gentlemen from India might say that they have been nominated or elected by the Governor General in Council. This seems to be a sort of smoke screen. In actual fact, some years ago, Mr. Churchill said in 1933 that India's representation at International conferences as decided by the Seventh Resolution of the Imperial War conference was unreal as its representatives were appointed by the India Secretary and act under his instructions. I should like to know whether it is true that the Secretary of State for India has no hand at all in the selection of these gentlemen. If any one has got a chance to dive into the archives or the records of this Government, I am sure he will not be surprised if he were to find not only the hand of Amery but also that of Churchill behind it. Sir, I will here give you two extracts. How the Secretary of State handles the Indian delegates was once described by the Honourable Sir Muhammad Habibullah who represented India at the Assembly of the League of Nations in 1928. He said:

"As soon as those of us who came from India were assembled in London, a meeting was held at the India Office when the position which we were occupying was explained to us on behalf of the Secretary of State on lines similar to those which have been reported by our predecessors."

Then, Sir B. L. Mitter—once the Law Member of the Government of India—explained to the Legislature the position of the Indian delegates *vis-a-vis* the Secretary of State. This is what he said in the other House:

"I wish this House to remember that the Indian delegation receives its instructions from the Secretary of State who has the constitutional right of supervision over the delegation."

This was the position in the past, up to 1933. And what is the position now? This House has given them an indication of its wish that it would like its elected representatives to be sent there on its behalf and on behalf of the country, and not these nominated Members. The Honourable Member got up and took shelter behind constitutional rights and provisions and said this House has no right to discuss the matter because it is the special privilege and prerogative of the Government of India to select its members. Sir, you were good enough to rule that this is on a par with the British precedent and therefore we would not be within our rights to demand a discussion in this House. I do not question your ruling but at the same time I wish to submit that there are other Governments also in the world, and they are not hound down by this kind of convention. They are not nominated Governments but elected Governments and representative Governments; they are able to select their own delegates. And why is it that this Government which is a nominated Government wants to take shelter behind this irresponsible provision and then plead that we should not encroach upon this field, merely because it happens to be a sort of Government at all?

Sir, one Honourable friend has already referred to the position of the U.S.A. I find that there a much more representative position is being taken up and also a much more satisfactory position. How do they come to their view point which they have to represent at the San Francisco Conference? They say:

"Those who represented the Government of the United States (at Dumbarton Oaks) were armed with the ideas and with the results of thinking contributed by numerous leaders of our national thought and opinion, without regard to political and other affiliations."

Are my Honourable friends prepared to give an assurance to this House that they are also prepared to take into consideration the views, opinions, hopes and ideals of all sections of the public in this country without any reference to their political affiliations, and are they prepared to go and plead for the real rights of

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India at that San Francisco Conference? I very much doubt, because they have not got the moral authority, the moral stature and the right to go there and fight for us all. They have not even developed that constitutional capacity to understand in a sympathetic manner our hopes and ideals and then to represent them ably and eloquently.

Then, Sir, the Americans are also anxious to do everything in that Conference "in a non-partisan spirit of devotion to the paramount national interest in peace and security which has characterised our previous consultations".

What is the paramount interest that our members are going to keep in their mind? It is the paramount interest of Great Britain, not the paramount national interest of India. That is our difficulty. But they can certainly take into consideration the paramount national interest of our country only when this country is free or when this country can possibly come to be represented by its own elected representatives and by its real national leaders. Sir, there would be a world of difference if Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Jinnah were there instead of these gentlemen. If they were there they would be able to talk in the name of India with all the moral authority that all these 40 crores of people are capable of investing them with. But on the other hand these gentlemen go there in spite of our protests, in spite of our censures; already their status is robbed and their prestige is robbed of all decency, and they go there as a sort of apology for India. They can only behave there as puppets—may be able puppets—of British imperialism and of the British Empire, not of India at all.

Then this Conference is going to work for the fulfilment of the hopes and ideals of the people. What are the hopes and ideals of this country? Does this Government know? Has it got the capacity to understand the hopes and ideals of this country? These were very eloquently stated in the Bombay Resolution where we have said that we want a world federation, world peace, a world army and defence force; and we want that all vestiges of imperialism shall be destroyed, and that no country in the world shall continue to be subjected to a colonial status. Are these gentlemen going to plead for these things? Are they going to tell the imperial powers which will gather there that they must shed their imperial robes and become merely independent countries like all other countries and recognise the freedom of all colonial people. They will not be allowed to do so because Mr. Churchill will not have it. There was a time when Mr. Churchill gave expression to a sort of feeling that the English people had better quit India instead of remaining in India if they are to beg India's co-operation in accepting British exports. This is what he said in 1933 before the Joint Parliamentary Committee:

• "Far rather would I see every Englishman quit India"—

Please mark those two words. Your Viceroy wants us, the Congress people, to give up the slogan "Quit India". It was not we who invented this phrase but it was Prime Minister Churchill who did it—

"Far rather would I see every Englishman quit India, every soldier, every civil servant embark at Bombay than that we should remain clutching on to the control of foreign relations and begging for trading facilities, while all the time we were the mere cloak of dishonour and oppression."

That was then the position of Mr. Churchill and that is even today the position of Mr. Churchill, because he said he had not become His Majesty's First Minister in order to preside over the liquidation of British imperialism.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur-Rahim): The Honourable Member has set some limit for himself. He has already spoken for quite a long time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I shall try to be as brief as possible.

Then, Sir, there is another difficulty. We go into this International Conference, but what is it going to do? It is going to invest these four big powers with the right to make peace for the world. But if any one of them breaks the peace of the world is there any chance that the other three powers and

all other smaller powers will be able to bring back order? Supposing America declares war tomorrow, what will happen? Even Mrs. Roosevelt said that she would be afraid of the U. S. A. under these conditions. These gentlemen will have the right to commandeer our defence forces. Today we are able to maintain our moral position that we have got into this war in spite of our protests and without being consulted at all. But tomorrow you will make a kind of show that you have consulted our Ramaswami Mudaliar and our Feroze Khan Noon and all these people and that India is a willing party to this great conference and this security scheme and therefore India is a willing partner in the future wars that are to come. I say this because there will be that security Council and there will be a staff committee and staff officers. The four powers will be China, the dwarf, Russia, the biggest, America, the next biggest and England coming last. Their Chiefs of Staff alone would be there and they have the right to decide when and where to strike, to commandeer your armies, and defence forces. You have no position there. Once they take that decision they commandeer your army, your naval and air forces. You have to place these things at their disposal, and you have no right to come to the Legislative Assembly and ask for its permission; your money will be placed at their disposal and your materials and everything else. That is the real danger that is in store for us. Are we going to make ourselves a party to this? We have already become a party to the U.N.R.R.A. and you have already laid aside six crores of rupees for it. God alone knows how much more money your successor is going to set aside. But do we have any control? Do we have any help from these people? What were they doing when millions of people were dying in the Bengal famine? The same thing is going to happen tomorrow. It will be the States that will be represented here, not the people. If the British and ourselves are at war among ourselves here in this country, we cannot bring that question to the notice of the Security Council that is going to be brought into existence, because it is not nations that are going to be the authority, it is the States only. Internal matters are absolutely taboo; therefore it is impossible for India at this juncture to commit herself to this conference and its proposed constitution, specially when these nominated Members are to go there and represent India.

Yes, India has a contribution to make to the rest of the world; India does not want to be a sort of parochial body at all. We do not want to be a frog in the well; we have a contribution to make. I dare say we are alone today who have got a message to give to the rest of the world, a message of hope to the blood-stricken world. Why? Because in spite of your so called science your civilisation, your racial arrogance and superiority, you have failed in retaining the element of humanity that is necessary. Why? You have engaged yourselves in these destructive wars and you have been thrown into these wars in spite of us. And then you come and tell us, "contribute more and more; it does not matter even if you have to starve; it does not matter even if you become poorer, but nevertheless make your effort, your best effort for saving the civilization and for the security of the world".

For whose security? For the security of England. For whose civilization? The whiteman's civilization. What is happening today? Four-hundred millions of commercial and industrial classes of white people are today dominating these fifteen-hundred millions of coloured peoples, colonials, Asiatic peoples, and all these Eastern people. You are robbing all our money and all our resources through unequal trade agreements and exchanges. You manage to get raw materials from your colonies and dependent countries, at too cheap prices and you employ your own labour and services at too high costs and then you sell the industrial commodities at too high prices in our markets. You under-price our services and goods and you buy them at cheap rates. In this way you have destroyed our economic resources. Fifteen hundred millions of colonial people are being robbed every day of the year for five hundred millions of you, and you have also the right to declare wars and create wars.

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Why are these wars caused? Because you fight among yourselves for this loot; it is a struggle between a number of thieves. We did not want to be a party to this. We said, "Yes, down with the superiority of Nazis, Nazism and Fascism; let us lend our weight to destroy Fascist robbers provided you agree to treat us as equals, provided you agree to liberate us, so that we all go hand in hand, as free people, and equal people, and put an end to this imperialist exploitation". Only when imperialism is put an end to only when the domination of your commercial and industrial classes over the colonial people is put an end to, will there be any peace in the world. And that is the mission of India. India is today on a peace mission, because we are waging a relentless war against your imperialism and fascism. You may say yourself that British imperialism is not fascism, but I may tell you that British imperialism is being viewed in the colonial countries as fascism and even worse. Of course British imperialism is something better in England and America. When you are making concessions to your working classes, when you think of family pensions, and also social securities, and so on you try to appear to be civilized people there, because you can afford to do so, but when you come here to us you come with all your claws and you leach away all our resources. We are at war with this system and this system can be ended only when there is a real peace in this world and there can be no peace until imperialism is destroyed and it cannot be destroyed until Sir Jeremy Raisman leaves his place, along with his other colleagues, to the elected Members of this House, until they recognize the freedom of this country and also the freedom of other countries.

There is now the talk of accountability of imperial countries to other countries for their colonial administration! We cannot understand this accountability of imperial countries for their custody of colonies. They are accountable to whom? To some of those Uncle Sams in America? Uncle Sam is as good or bad as his English cousin, because Uncle Sam did not hesitate to take over the West Indies without asking for the permission of the people of those islands. It was an exchange of concessions and islands from French hands to American hands. Is that the sort of Uncle Sam who is going to hold you to accounts?

With regard to China, they say, 'Free Charter for Asia'. How are the Asiatics going to be free? Step by step of the ladder of freedom. How many steps we do not know? Ex-Vice-President Wallace did not tell us. Montague's idea is being doled out to us in the name of American democracy. And this is the cousin to whom they are accountable. We do not believe it; the world does not believe it. You may shut us from the rest of the world, but whether we are in jails or outside, we shall continue to go on clamouring for freedom and we are sure to succeed against this British Imperialism as well as the new American Imperialism.

Sir, I wish to take the House into confidence and tell them that India has the honour of having taken the first steps to bring it into existence what is known as 'Colonial Peoples Freedom Front'. It is blessed by Mahatma Gandhi and I am sure, it will be blessed also by my Honourable friends of the Muslim League Party. We are all anti-imperialists and we are out to gain our freedom. Once we gain that, then it will be our task to liquidate British Imperialism, and in order to liquidate British Imperialism it is not only India that is on war path but a number of colonial people are also on war path. That is why you have interned a number of South Africans, East Africans, West Africans and a number of Negroes and other coloured people. That is why in Jamaica and other places you had to shoot so many innocent people. But I am sure no amount of harsh treatment will succeed in suppressing this feeling. There is a new wave of freedom and we are determined to get that freedom.

These people may say that there is China and other countries—Soviet Russia is anti-imperialist—and all the other communist countries, free countries, and

they will be able to assure the Indian people that they are going to get freedom for India. No, Sir. The colonial people are not in a mood to accept this sort of thing at all; empty promises; they are not going to listen to these false offers of hope. They insist upon being free they want their representatives to go and represent India at international conferences. My complaint is that my Honourable friend does not go there as a representative of this House, and he does not go there as a representative of this country. My Honourable friend can certainly play his part as an adviser to our delegation because he has got all that experience, but he cannot represent this country because they are the agents of Amery, Churchill and all the rest of them. Consciously or unconsciously they will always have at the back of their mind the consideration 'what is going to happen to us tomorrow and the day after; what is going to be our position'. Then, Sir, there will be representatives of other countries at this conference. They will look at our representatives—sweet tongued and well behaved—and yet others will think 'supposing we come to any sort of terms with these people at all, will those terms be acceptable to the real representatives of India'. I wish to assure my Honourable friend, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, that whatever agreement he may come to, it will not be himself and the people like him in their capacity as nominated members—he is welcome to come here as elected member, and I will be the first to congratulate him on that,—but as long as he is a nominated member, it will not be these people who will be implementing these decisions that will be come to. It will be the elected people of this country—if not tomorrow, after a few years—and it will be the responsibility of these people to say yes or no to whatever these people agree to. I wish to sound this note of warning from the floor of this House to the extent that it can possibly reach the other powers, that India is not going to be a party to what these gentlemen agree to at San Francisco. India is going to exercise its free judgment on the question of whether it is going to accept what these gentlemen agree to these or not. India refuses to be a party to imperialism, she insists that she should be accepted as one of the great powers and even in spite of that, India does not want to be a party to any sort of scheme which aims at placing the great powers on the heads of smaller nations and dividing the whole world among the great powers.

Even the Round Table Quarter said that Britain had not the capacity or strength to entitle her to independent membership, but only because of her commonwealth. And because constitutionally Commonwealth could not be mentioned, England has come to be mentioned as one of the permanent members. But at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference all the time they had the British Commonwealth in their mind. If Britain were to be shorn of her Empire she would not be anything there. She would be one of the small nations. Already, Arthur Greenwood was crying the other day, oh, where is England. Everywhere conferences were being held but there was no conference in England. Let us invite them. Let our King come down from Buckingham Palace and greet them! That is the position of Great Britain. Sir Jeremy Raisman looks very grim because his country is so small.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has spoken for more than one hour.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Therefore, England can sustain her position provided she is prepared to recognise the rights of these other countries and also grant complete freedom not only here in India but also to the rest of the world.

Sir I oppose this Finance Bill.

Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this is the last Finance Bill of the Honourable the Finance Member, and ironically enough, this is one of the worst this House has had before it.

Coming from a rural constituency in Bengal, I feel that I must participate in this discussion, if for no other reason than to bring to the attention of the Government that the plight of the people in my part of the country is perhaps

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the worst, particularly because the effects of war are being felt more by us than in any other part of India. The Finance Bill contains all the old measures of taxation: salt tax remains the same: the price of the postcard remains the same. The Honourable the Finance Member had done nothing to earn the gratitude of the poor people in the country and he has brought forth no measure to ameliorate their condition.

The Honourable Member thinks that his anti-inflationary measures are his biggest triumph and the present degree of stabilization of prices and the control of Indian and foreign goods the greatest boon he could hold out to a war-famished public. There, indeed, has been a fall in the commodity prices, but it has been insignificant and the cost of living is still three times as great as it was before the war. The various measures of control have not had the desired effects; rather they have proved to be failures, more or less. Instead of easing an otherwise tense situation, they resulted only in black market, scarcity and famine. The other day the Honourable the Commerce Member said in the House that there was no such thing as cloth famine in Bengal. Sir, I do not have any documentary evidence and do not require any, even if it be from the Honourable Member. My evidence is one of observation, day after day, in the rural parts of my province, and it is clear to me as daylight that there is an acute shortage of cloth. The standard cloth has remained to this day one of the myths of this war. The poor never got the so-called standard cloth, and the lucky few who could get just a few yards found it was wholly insufficient to meet their needs. At any rate, Sir, it is obvious to all who have their eyes open that the majority of the rural, and even urban, population in Bengal today go about the street semi-naked.

The trouble with the present system is that control is considered an imposition from above, the business purely of bureaucrats. The people, the men who are so vitally affected, have no voice, no say in the enforcement of these measures. If at all, anybody outside the official circle is associated with these measures, it is the person who is not interested in these measures and who is out to sabotage them. I refer to the set of some manufacturers, their agents and big merchants who sit on the Government control boards. This gives them a strategic position to delay, undo and distort these measures. I have only to refer you to the Textile Control Board to emphasize the grave situation that arises out of such half-measures.

There is, Sir, another side of this dismal picture. The black market and scarcity of goods have increased also because of the large troops now stationed in my province. The soldiers are prepared to purchase the goods they require at any price, without regard to the control orders. This directly encourages black market and results in artificial scarcity and famine of goods, and the civilian population already deprived of many of their day-to-day necessities, feel the pinch all the more. The Honourable the Commerce and Finance Members do not seem to know anything about it and have done nothing, even by way of anticipating such a situation and counter-acting it. And it could not but be otherwise. The Finance Member is interested in teaching men some object-lessons as to the virtues of spending less and saving less. He thinks he is fighting inflation, ignoring that he is, in one way, also inflating the miseries and troubles of the poor.

As I said in the beginning, I will confine myself mainly to the conditions in Bengal. The next important thing with which Bengal is concerned is food. No doubt, the food situation has eased a little. The Local Government is taking steps to make food available to all without distinction. But considering the magnitude of the population that is concentrated in Calcutta on account of war, it is up to the Central Government to render all possible help to the Local Government. The medical supplies are an open scandal. The medicines are supplied at irregular intervals; there is very little co-ordination with the unofficial medical relief organizations. The result is utter chaos. I ask the Government to take the lead in the matter and initiate a policy of

close co-operation with unofficial bodies, representatives of the people, the consumers, so that the prevailing difficulties are reduced to a minimum in the least possible time.

Talking of food, I cannot but mention the acute shortage of kerosene oil. Long queues are a common sight, while the poor people's homes are unlit all the same. We do realize the difficulties of war-time conditions and the priority that it must have, but we also feel that all this can be reduced, at any rate made much less cumbersome. Things like salt and kerosene needs must be provided for the people, thus giving them an assurance that their needs are not being overlooked. And, I say, this can be done for them, but also and only through them and their unofficial representatives.

The Honourable Member in his speech said that the people had generally appreciated the control of prices and were willing to co-operate. This is a fact, but it is precisely here that the Government machinery fails. The measure of control is not properly enforced and the co-operation of the people is not appreciated by the authorities. For if it were so, so much of misery and hardship would disappear. I must also point out here an outstanding grievance of the Muslims of my province. The proportion of Bengali Muslims in the Central Government Departments and their attached and subordinate offices is ridiculously small. It must be remembered that, in general, a great majority of Government servants come from Bengal, and it is odd that the Muslims of that province who are in majority in their own homeland, should have such a small share in the jobs the Government offers, particularly in these days when the War has been responsible for the creation of thousands of new appointments. This is a grievance which Muslims of Bengal have all along placed before the Government and which has not been met so far. I hope the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches will not lose sight of it.

The Honourable the Finance Member in his speech said that the people were generally ready to co-operate with the authorities in the control of prices and fully appreciated it, but, Sir, unfortunately it is precisely here that the Government machine fails. The authorities do not appreciate their co-operation. For if it were so, so much of hardship would disappear.

I come now to the post offices. The way in which the postcard has been treated all these years is a source of grievance and scandal. The postcard is an important item of economy in the house of the poor. And here no relief has been afforded to them, though this House has consistently pressed for a cheaper postcard for several years past. The stale argument of the Government is that the Postal Department is a commercial Department and it must balance its own budget. But may I ask the Honourable Member since when

I.P.M. the balancing of Budget comes to mean wholesale profiteering. I would not even grudge a surplus Budget to the Postal Department, which it is enjoying for the last so many years, provided it left the poor aside and did not resort to taxing them indirectly. And oddly enough the postal service, while so costly, in fact, costlier every year, is so sadly inefficient. Delay is its hall mark today. The Railways have been able to meet their demands and delays in running trains have considerably been reduced, yet the Postal Department still lags far behind. There are great delays in transit of letters and telegrams and this is most inexcusable, because you collect heavy rates from the public and do not render proper service

Sir, in regard to the Defence expenditure, a few days ago, a question was asked in this House for furnishing details of expenditure under this item. Unless we have a full version of the various heads under which Defence expenditure is being allotted, it is impossible for us to follow how much exactly we spend on the war. How much India pays, how much Britain pays? These are very pertinent questions and need an answer from the Treasury Benches. It is said that the war in the Far East is to continue with greater vigour in the near future. This will naturally mean more expenditure and consequently it means a greater need for control over expenditure. We are told times out of number that the Public and Military Accounts Committees will review and

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scrutinise the expenditure. But theirs is only a post-mortem examination, and serves no means to check or withhold. What we want is an examination as and when the expenditure is sanctioned. In this way alone, the avoidable expense and waste can be eliminated. Last year, the Public Accounts Committee in its report revealed certain scandalous cases of waste and corruption in many departments. The more, I plead to the House, should not be lost on those in charge of the military expenditure.

While saying all this, I do not minimise the importance of prosecuting the war. We are as great anti-fascists as the Honourable Members sitting opposite. In fact, we are greater anti-fascists, because this country belongs to us and we want to safeguard against all foreign encroachments. We are therefore for the efficient prosecution of the war. Where, again, we do differ from the Government is the method. The war, Sir, provided an immense opportunity for building India's industry. Some industry has, no doubt, cropped up, here and there, but this is by no means what could be done and should be done. For nearly six years the Government has merely looked on, not even stirring its little finger. Other countries have done miracles during this war, and accomplished feats of industrial development. But we drag on, as if nothing has happened. Of course this does not bother the Honourable the Finance Member. But what is more—and this the Honourable Member may be interested in—it results in a set back to the war effort. The result is that the war prolongs, the offensive against Japan delays, being dependent on foreign supplies, and the difficulties of the poor people likewise increase manifold.

The civil side of the expenditure as well betrays huge waste. Take, for instance, the Supply Department. The war is coming to an end almost, the expense of maintaining this organisation multiplies. The orders placed by this Department, as the Finance Member disclosed, have undergone a decrease, but it continues to be riddled with highly paid commercial men. This is inexcusable as the activities of the Department become less and less. I suggest that there should be a periodical review of the cost of maintaining this Department so that it does not topple over. It is not enough to say that war needs have to be met. A more serious scrutiny is required, for after all, the justification of its cost has been assessed in the light of its activities, the demands on it and so on and so on.

Food Department is another case in point. This Department has a long list of British officers. Does it mean, Sir, that the British officers alone know the Indian conditions, the Indian people and the best way to feed them? Does it mean that Indian officers of the right calibre are not available and that India is full of men who do not know themselves? It has also been reported in the press that a fourth division is to be created in this Department in order to provide for a new section of service. To me, Sir, it looks very much like a back-door relief Department of the Government of India, replete with corruption and jobbery. It is high time that the Honourable the Food Member looked into the matter seriously and took away the burden from the masses of the people who ultimately shoulder it, directly or indirectly.

I would therefore suggest, Sir, that a periodical review, not only of the Supply and Food Departments should be made, but of all Departments of the Government of India. At the rate at which the expenditure is going up, I am afraid, Sir, the country will go bankrupt. We are told that there is to be an Advisory Committee to meet the contingency into which the Departments are heading. The decisions of the Committee can only be advisory and not mandatory. To check unbridled expenditure, each Department should scrutinise its expenditure and place it before the House at least twice a year.

Now, Sir, when I go home to my constituency, my people will naturally ask me as to what I have done during this Session. I ask the Honourable the Food, Finance and all other Members to tell me what exactly they want me to say. Will my constituency be satisfied if I am to say that because of

the war, all things will continue as before, that there will be more of hardships and difficult times ahead? Do the Honourable Members think that this will be of any comfort to them to know that their plight is to last longer still? I must confess openly, Sir, that the people are restive and anxious and curious to know if things are going to improve. I must at the same time confess that I do not see any way of hope coming from the dove-cotes of New Delhi. New Delhi has completely failed to understand that behind the economic anarchy in the country lies deep the roots of a political crisis, and unless they are eradicated, all efforts emanating from New Delhi will prove of no avail. We will go from one crisis to another, unless the political crisis comes to an end. The offensive against Japan itself cannot be speeded up, unless the political crisis is resolved, and unless the war in the Far East comes to an end, our difficulties will continue. Inside the country no amount of anti-inflationary measures will remedy the ruined economy, famine and scarcity.

What is urgently needed at the moment is an extremely realistic view of the situation. Only a National Government composed of all parties in the country can meet the requirements of the times. Other countries, right in the midst of war, have found it possible to change the horses, set up new Governments and have got going with them. Why cannot it be done in India here and now? It can be and must be done if we are to survive, for the half measures that the Government introduce at the moment are no solutions but only fidgeting with things, and as such all their efforts to improve the state of affairs are failures. Already the way in which the Government have selected the Indian representatives at the forthcoming Conference at San Francisco is an indicator of their intentions. When the war came we were not consulted, during the war itself we had little or no say in the shaping of the country's life and when the war is drawing to a close, the old policy of by-passing the people is asserting itself. This only alienates the masses and their sympathies. Unless the Government change their age-old line which is thoroughly out of tune with the times, they would be groping in the dark, unable to solve any single problem of importance. This, then, they must get clear into their heads, otherwise we all know the force of history is stronger than the caprice of individuals, and they will repent when it is far too late in the day to rebuild the boats they burnt. And all this must go on, unless the Government has better sense and vision, unless the Government gives up the old policy of sitting tight and learns better understanding of the situation.

I said just now, better understanding. This is what is needed in more than one way on the part of the Government. They are accustomed to think that they can by-pass the root causes of trouble, and through their top measures solve all problems. That is the typical way of a bureaucracy. Even after six years of hardship and misery that the war has brought, they could not understand that the misery could have been reduced, the war-effort promoted, if only they could solve the political crisis. The solution of the political crisis in the country would mean the association of the people with the Government. This will mean that the people will no longer look indifferently towards the war. The Honourable Member complained that Indian pilots were not forthcoming, and the 10th Squadron could not be created. It was because of two reasons. Firstly, there is not a Government of the people to infuse sufficient spirit amongst the people, particularly the young people. Secondly, the Indian officers are not treated well. Otherwise Indians are amongst the best fighters in the world. And these things can come about only if the Government have a proper understanding of the situation and realities of life. Once that happens, the economic crisis, the scarcity, famine, black market will disappear, the people would be aroused, and their best, patriotic instincts would come into play. The mass of petty officials will not have to harass the poor people to collect money for the War Fund and for the Savings Drives. Inflation could be reduced manifold and the clogging of the transport and industry would be undone. We see around us the example of other countries. There is much less misery in those countries, and the war efforts move ahead. In Britain itself all these problems are far less acute, for the obvious reason

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that the people of the country have a say in the affairs. Even in countries just freed from the Fascist yoke where there is chaos, famine, where everything is topsyturvy, the people are putting up with hardships and war conditions with a smile and a courage that is born of freedom. All this could be done here and now. But this unfortunately is a thing in which the British Government is not interested. Instead all manners of lies and fibs are spread about India in Britain and America through the machinery for which India pays. This is the height of bankruptcy and the mentality of a gambler who is losing his game, and this must end, if all the glib words of the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches are to be translated into practice. Half measures will simply not do. This is the understanding on the part of the Government of which I spoke just now and which must prevail if things are to go well. But this is also an understanding which the Government fail to appreciate. If they must fail in this task, all their measures along with the Finance Bill now before the House will prove of no avail.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the annual Budget which the Honourable Finance Member has presented, has been characterised by various speakers as an entirely war Budget. He has been accused, Sir, during his term of office or during the last few years, of thinking only of the war and nothing but the war. I personally fail to see how he can be criticised for this. In this country as in all other countries which are at war in a just cause, the war must come before everything else. If we do not first get on with it, all that we are fighting for cannot be brought about.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will please resume after Lunch.

THE INCOME-TAX AND EXCESS PROFITS TAX (AMENDMENT) 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 Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940.

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.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Sir, I had just started my speech when it had to be suspended owing to the lunch hour. I started off by saying that although a number of Honourable Members had criticised the Finance Member for making the war and its problems overshadow all other considerations in his budget and although they claimed that the Honourable Finance Member in the last few years had thought of nothing else at all in his waking and in his sleeping hours but of the war, I think that this is a matter on which I can congratulate him; and I do so for a practical reason: namely that since we are in this business every effort must be made to finish this unhappy business as soon as possible and with the utmost thoroughness and the utmost expedition that we are capable of. Now by the combined efforts of the Allies, where the efforts of India also have made their due and proper contribution, the end of this war is in sight, and we are happy that it is going to be a victorious and a glorious end.

When the war ends, that does not end all its problems. In fact the real problems produced by a great war are its after-math; and the after-math of this war is going to be as terrible as that of the last war. I remember at the end of the last war, which was not anything so great or so widespread as the present war, a great deal was said and talked about the new world that was to dawn after the war had been victoriously ended. I happened to be in England in the years 1919 and 1920; and in those years and the year before the newspapers, the public men, parliament and everybody else concerned thought and talked

all the time of a land which they said would be fit for heroes to live in. That is, England was to be a land fit for heroes to live in; and I believe so did the other countries which were participants in the war: they also promised their soldiers who were returning, that when they came back they would have decent houses adequate living wages and all sorts of attractive conditions of life. I remember in the year 1920 and 1919 that the dreams of those who came back were by no means fulfilled. In fact there was the greatest dissatisfaction among demobilised soldiers in the way they were treated. They constantly said that they certainly did not come back to a land fit for heroes to live in. In India exactly the same thing happened. The demobilised soldiers, although they were praised during the war and patted on the back and a great deal was said about them, found that when they were demobilised people forgot them very soon: a grateful country did not repay them with the gratitude which they had deserved. Therefore I take this opportunity of bringing this particular theme to the notice of those who sit on the Treasury Benches or those who will be their successors in the postwar period. I think that the greatest problem which confronts us is that these people who have fought for their country, people who have shed their blood, should be treated in the manner in which they deserve and in the manner in which they have been promised treatment. I was saying that failure to tackle this led to a great deal of trouble not only in this country but even in England and in the dominions, as soldiers who fought in the last war when they returned were not properly treated; and they found themselves disillusioned. The question is what are we going to do in this country? I need not recall the schemes of the Post-war Planning Member. There are all kinds of post-war schemes being put on paper and we hear nothing inside or outside the House but post-war plans. My submission is that the first precedence ought to do to the welfare of those who have fought for their country in this war. Need I describe the horrors of the present war? Are they not known to every one? The fact is that those of our young men and in this case, even our young women, who have gone out to fight in the war or to discharge duties connected with the war, have been through the utmost stress and turmoil. In other words, they have gone through hell. What is going to be their recompense? What place are they going to find in the post-war world? I am particularly thinking of young men who have given up their careers, whether at the university or in business firms or even in Government service, who have willingly gone out to serve their King and their country and their allies. Many of them have laid down their lives; others have been maimed and may have been rendered unfit for active life. Yet there are a great many who will come back and will return fit. The point is how will they fit in into the post-war world design? It is impossible in the course of a brief speech to review the whole problem. But there are one or two parts of this great problem to which I wish to draw the attention of the present Government. It is unfortunate that the War Secretary is not here to listen to me. I feel that in the first place we are being told—at any rate it has been made public in this House—that Government intend to reserve 75 per cent (I may be corrected if I am wrong) of all vacancies during this period. (*An Honourable Member*: “70 per cent.”) 70 per cent. of the vacancies that arise for direct recruitment; and even places which are being filled now by temporary Government servants for the duration of the war, for those who come back with a good record of war service. Now, that is encouraging; it is a good thing. But how is the 70 per cent of the vacancies to be filled and what is going to be the criterion? If I mistake not, the other day one of the Members of the Treasury Benches speaking said that those vacancies would be filled in proportion to the communal representation that has been laid down: i.e., if a certain community is entitled to 40 per cent. of vacancies in Government service they will be given that number of vacancies which are being kept in reserve for those returning from war service, and so on. I consider this is a most unfair arrangement. It is not even fair in this matter to lay down this communal proportion. There has been communal representation—in the service of Government—I personally do not hold with communal representation—but if there must be communal representation and if Government accept the

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principle that those who have shed their blood for their country at this time and those who have gone through the horrors of war should be given opportunities in the service of their country, and if they must be appointed not on merits or on the record of services rendered by these men, at least the proportion that is just and right should be in proportion to the number of men that a particular community has given to the war service. I do not like to mention names of communities; but my own feeling is that if for instance the Muslim community have contributed to the officer and the combatant ranks 50 per cent of the total of the fighting services, then that community ought to be given, not 25 per cent or whatever is their quota, but 50 per cent of the vacancies. In the same way, if the Sikhs have given 10 or 15 per cent to the fighting services, it is not the small proportion of $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent in which they share: but they should be entitled to a share of these vacancies in proportion to the fighting strength they have contributed. That, I think, is the fair and equitable measure of dealing with these vacancies which have been reserved for those who are doing war service. I would like Government to ponder over these matters because if they do not do so they will again have on their hands the problem which they had after the last war, namely, a very large number of highly dissatisfied and disillusioned men who have shed their blood and who in return will be kept out of an opportunity of serving their country.

The next point I would like to make is this. Adequate provision was not made, after the last war, for the sons and daughters and dependents of those who fell in the war or who were permanently maimed or disabled. The provision made for them was most inadequate and I would plead with all the earnestness I can command that those men who have given their lives and have made a supreme sacrifice for the country, since we cannot recompense them in any material manner, should not be forgotten and their sons and dependents should not be forgotten by a grateful country which lives because they died and I plead that due provision should be made in an adequate manner for them. In this matter I would strongly urge that any distinction between Europeans or Indians or between one community and another should be removed and that the allowances that are given should be adequate and should be given without discrimination.

My next point is this. I believe I am a man of peace. I am a man who has believed in peace all my life and yet I feel that the peace of a country can only be maintained if a country makes itself strong enough to prevent invaders and disturbers of peace to attack it without fear. This country hopes to attain self government before long. In a country like India which hopes to take its place with the great and free countries of the world, there must be an army strong enough to defend it. Nothing has been more regrettable than the manner in which our armies were demobilised. Countries which did not wish to fight, demobilised their armies. Now we are paying for the mistakes of statesmen who were too anxious to do away with the fighting services. They demobilised the fighting services and treated them badly and left the country in such a weak state that other countries which were aggressive got their chance. We hope that such a chance would never be allowed to aggressive people and that can only be done if we have a really strong army and I submit that a free India cannot continue to be free for any length of time, if it has not a strong army to defend itself. Nothing will please me better than to be able to follow the principle of non-violence but the world is not yet fit for non-violence. We have got to face facts. We have to look round and study the state the world now is in and not only what we wish it to be or what we may hope it might become in another generation.

My next point is that the Indian army should be a truly national army, an army that is officered by the natural leaders of this country, an army where every caste and community in this country feels it has a share and a place to

which it can go with self respect and in honour fight and serve in it with self respect and honour. The first point that I wish to make in this connection is that there should be no discrimination in the matter of the treatment given to the combatant ranks. Speaking frankly, let me say that I am in close touch with a very large number of young men. Throughout my life, I have been connected with education from primary to university work and I cannot help feeling that rightly or wrongly in the minds of our young men there is a feeling of suspicion. Many of them hesitate to join even the commissioned ranks because they feel that there is some discrimination against them. I am not here claiming that all that they allege is correct or that this accusation or fear or suspicion is altogether correctly founded. But there cannot be smoke if there is no fire and there is in the minds of these young men some fear that when they go out for training for the army they do not get quite the treatment which they expect. These are not matters which are pleasant to speak about but everyone knows what the feeling is. I merely make a reference to it and I express a sincere hope that this feeling may be removed by a really honest effort by the army authorities. Assurances have been given on this subject. I am not one of those who doubt the motives of others as I hope that others will believe in mine and I hope that during this present war the existing suspicion will be removed from the minds of young men, particularly our educated young men. It is not only educated young men but also Indian other ranks sometimes express such views and I believe with a certain amount of justification.

In this connection I am very sorry that the Army Secretary is not here. The other day when I got an opportunity to speak, I hope at any rate in my own estimate, I made a very good and strong point about the utilisation of the University Training Corps. The Army Secretary in his reply did not condescend to make any reference to what I had said. I said at that time that for years the University Training Corps now called the Officer Training Corps, have felt that the army authorities never took them seriously. Speaking from personal experience, I feel they were given the cold shoulder. Neither in the matter of equipment nor in the matter of training, were they given much consideration. During the war, to some extent, the University Training Corps have come into their own and I do acknowledge with gratitude that in recent years Government have assisted us with funds and also with facilities for training and with a certain amount of equipment, though owing to the exigencies of war they have found it very difficult to give much in the way of equipment. But we have found that in recruiting for the commissioned ranks of the army, practically no concession has been made, and very little advantage is given to those of our young men who have spent years in undergoing a course of training in the U. T. C. for instance, no facilities were given to them for direct recruitment. They still have to appear before the Selection Boards and for reasons which I and the Principals of my Colleges are even now unable to understand, they have not given their right place in the officer ranks of the army. I pleaded with the Army Secretary the other day to look into this matter and to see if they are really earnest in asking us as they continually ask us to encourage our University young men to go into the army, if they are sincere and earnest in their efforts and I have no reason to doubt their sincerity, they should make use of the agency which already exists, namely the U. T. C., and let these young people understand that they are welcome and that their claims because of the training which they have already received would be recognised. In this particular manner, I referred to the appeals that have been made to us—an appeal was made the other day by a very high ranking Air officer regarding the great need of officers in the Indian Air Force. My own University and some other Universities have established Air Training Centres, in others they are in the course of being established. I again want to ask the Government, if they will take these Indian Air Training corps seriously or does it only mean that this training which is being given to them is to be of no value, like the training in University Territorial Corps in recent years? I am glad that the War Secretary has now come to the House and I do hope that he will be able to look into these matters, because as I said, a national army can only be properly officered by the nationals of this country and I believe that a very large part of the ground

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for obtaining recruits to the army lies in the Indian Universities. Finally, I hope that the foremost efforts during the war and after the war will be to remove the suspicion in the minds of our young men that there is discrimination in the army, and secondly that they would be encouraged from the Universities to go into the commissioned ranks and serve their country in this national army.

Before I sit down, I wish to refer to another matter and I do so with a certain amount of hesitation and unwillingness. For, I cannot forget that on an occasion like this, when people speak on the Finance Bill and on all things which whether in heaven or earth, I must say a word on behalf of the community which I have the honour to represent in this House. Sir, I have been asked to come to this House to represent a community of six million people, the Indian Christian community. I do not wish to quarrel with my Honourable friend, who is not present here as to whether we are the third largest community, or the fourth or the fifth largest community in the country, or whether we are the smallest community in the country. What I do wish to say is that ours is a community very largely drawn from the humble and the poor, and to begin with was largely illiterate. It is spread over a very large portion of the country. I am fully aware that a very large proportion of my community live in Indian States, and I am glad they not only live there but live there as useful and happy citizens in States like Cochin, Travancore and other South Indian States, where in one case at any rate they form almost one-third of the population of the State. They have risen through their spirit of service to very honourable ranks in the services of these Indian States where the Rulers certainly are not Christians. My community, Sir, is very non-vocal. As I have said, the majority of my community are poor and lowly. Others are either public servants or are agriculturists. They are people who certainly find it very difficult to agitate and they do not say very much. Whereas other communities are well represented in this House, I happen to be the only feeble representative, to speak for a community of six million people. The other day I was forced to put a question about the representation of my community in the local bodies in this Province. My Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan asked me whether it was not a fact that the Indian Christian community had declared before the Simon Commission that they did not want communal electorates and that they were prepared to work in general electorates and they did not ask for any reservations. I was a Member of the deputation which appeared before the Simon Commission. I repeat here what the deputation said there, and what the view point of my community is. I think all thinking members of my community will endorse my views. Our view is that we fully and entirely stand by general electorates. We do not ask for any reservations, we do not ask for communal electorates, and our view is based on a simple and practical reason. What is the good, Sir, that in a house of 145 Members, our community should have one or even six Members? What weight can we pull, what advantage can we get by that meagre representation? I feel, Sir, that safeguards in any constitution, particularly safeguards for minorities are absolutely futile. No safeguards put on paper are of any value. Treaties have been treated as scraps of paper. What earthly use are safeguards written down in a constitution which may be changed at any time and at any moment? We take our stand on the good will of our countrymen, on the trust and confidence which we can inspire and which we hope to inspire in them through our service, through the honesty of our motives and through what we can achieve by serving our countrymen and thereby taking our rightful place in the country. I stand fully by that, and I think that a majority of my community who are thinking men will stand by it. But, Sir, we are not the constitution makers. We do not make the constitution. We were not consulted when the present constitution was formed. The position now is that we are faced for the present with a constitution which holds the field. In that constitution, contrary to our views, unfortunately, communal electorates have been established. Under that constitution, even Government appointments have been doled out in a certain percentage among the various communities and merit is neither the first nor the sole consideration.

If merit were the first consideration, then my people would be the last to ask for any reservation. I have no quarrel with the majority of my countrymen, and if a personal reference might be forgiven, I would say, Sir, I happen to be today the twice elected Vice-Chancellor of a University where nine-tenth of the voters happen to be Hindus. I have been elected for four successive terms as Chairman of the Board of Education for the Indian States of Rajputana, Central India, and Gwalior where again nine-tenths of the members happen to belong to the majority communities. I do not say that I have been elected because of any particular merit in myself, but I feel, Sir, that I have served these learned bodies to the best of my ability for many years and that my colleagues, although they knew that I do not belong to their community, yet in preference to my rival candidates who belonged to the majority communities did me the honour of election because they had faith in my fairmindedness. Therefore I should be the last to plead for reservation of any kind of seats either in electorates or in the services of this country. But, as I say, Sir, I have got to speak for a community which goes practically unrepresented under the present constitution. As you see Sir, in this House, we can send no representatives. The Government are under no obligation to even nominate an Indian Christian. There have been times when no Indian Christian sat in this Assembly. At any rate nomination is entirely in Government's hands and it is their kindness that they have asked me to come to this House. I feel that that is an unfair situation for a community so large as mine. Then again in the case of district boards or municipalities and other local bodies, there are hardly any among these local bodies where Indian Christians have been given the right of election. I believe I would rather come in by election than by the favour of any appointing authority.

3 P.M.

The other day in this connection I asked a question of my Honourable friend the Education Secretary as to why it was that in the Delhi Municipal Committee, the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the Notified Area Committee and the District Board of this province not a single Indian Christian had been made a member, at any rate in the last 15 years, and in the case of one or two of these bodies never since their foundation. I feel that I was given a very unkind reply. He said that I was myself a member of all these bodies for a term of 14 years. Sir, my submission is that this is typical of the way in which my community is treated. I happened to be the Education Adviser—a Government official—to advise these bodies on education. And when I asked my Honourable friend whether he represented the European Group here because he happens to be a European he said he certainly did not; and yet he maintained that I represented the Indian Christians in the Delhi and New Delhi Municipality because, though an humble Government servant and purely an educational adviser to these bodies, I happened to be labelled an Indian Christian.

Then, Sir, he went on to give an even stranger reply to my question. He said that the necessity for nominating Indian Christians does not seem to be so urgent—I am paraphrasing his words—because the presence of so many Christian officials is sufficient to guard their interests. I do not know who these Christian officials are; probably he meant the one or two Europeans who sit there as *ex-officio* members. Is not that a strange reason? It is surprising that there should be so little logic in the Government of India. If that is so, why should not the European Group in this House be abolished? When there are so many Europeans in the Treasury Benches why bring in the European Group from such large distances at so much trouble and expense to them? Why should not they themselves represent European interests?

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): They are first cousins; Anglo-Indians second and you are only third cousins.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I am not even a fourth cousin.

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Sir, I am sorry to refer to these matters, but I wish to point out that to a community, merely because it is non-vocal, such serious injustice is done in every sphere of life. I say again with all the force at my command that we ask for no safeguards and we ask for no preferences; we only ask that we should be given our due share in the body-politic of this country. And we have again and again represented to Government that where our numbers justified we should be given the right to elect our representatives, be it to the local bodies, be it to provincial legislatures or the central legislatures.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Separate electorate?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I am not asking for any separate electorate and I will tell you why we do not ask for a separate electorate. All I ask is that if Government, for reasons which I cannot appreciate, are unable to give us an elected representative on the local bodies, they should at least do a small measure of justice in their capital city, whereby a community which numbers over 10,500 in this province, should not go absolutely unrepresented. In this case even I have now been removed from these local bodies, so that there is no justification for saying that I hold the interests of these people in my hands. I say therefore that they should do us this favour and appoint—if they will not give us the right to elect—representatives to these local bodies. Why should we be the only community singled out for complete non-representation in these bodies?

My Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin asked me whether I want separate electorates. Sir, in a portion of the reply given to me by my Honourable friend the Education Secretary he gave me the glad news that since 1944 the ban against non-Muslims standing for general seats had been removed and therefore it was open to my community to stand for non-Muslim seats, and probably capture all the seats, in the Delhi municipality and other local bodies. Sir, my point is this. If my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin will agree that there should be no reservations and no separate electorates, I am willing to take my chance with him or with any one else. But I cannot expect in any fairness that since electorates are divided among Muslim and non-Muslim, the non-Muslim community should be so magnanimous as to give up one or two seats to my community to contest and themselves stand out.

An Honourable Member: Are you not a non-Muslim?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I have already told you what community I represent. But the position is as I say in fairness that if it is decided that all electorates shall be open and free I have nothing further to say. If not a single person from my community gets in it is their misfortune. But I maintain that so long as the present system goes on and the electorate is divided into Muslim and non-Muslim, no small community can have a chance, and therefore Government, who are the authors of this arrangement and who are I hope kind to all communities, should not allow a small community like ours, because it is non-vocal, to stand out and go out into the cold by giving them such cold comfort by maintaining that their interests are safe in the hands of Christian officials or that they can now come in from the non-Muslim side.

Again in the matter of Government appointments I have to say a word or two. And I say this with very great regret because I have stated what my position in this matter is. Again this Government was responsible for dumping all minorities together and giving them a percentage of I think $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. So long as that arrangement lasts my community comes off worst because, as I said, they are non-vocal. They believed and still believe in co-operation. My community at all times have co-operated with Government; they still have abundant faith in the good intentions of Government and in their impartiality. But what is happening? When we are needed we come forward with willingness. I have learnt on good authority—the War Secretary will correct me if I am wrong—that at the present moment Indian Christians form 13.5 per cent of the commissioned ranks of the Indian army; and I think he himself gave the

information that they form five to six per cent. of the total fighting strength of the Indian army. I bring that out merely to show that if a community of such small size and with very small martial traditions has come forward at the time of stress to serve their country and serve it ungrudgingly, is it fair that when anything in the way of reward or opportunities for serving their country are concerned, the same Government denies them those privileges because they are politically unimportant? It seems to me a very strange thing. I have been a good deal in England; I have noticed that as individuals you can ask for a no better friend than a Britisher, but when it comes to dealings collectively, when it comes to dealings as a nation, it is surprising that the British nation forgets its friends. I believe they treat their enemies, those who have fought against them, with much greater magnanimity and with much greater kindness than they treat their friends. My community has at all times and in the large majority been loyal supporters of Government; they still are. But are Government aware that among the younger generation there is the greatest discontent and the greatest disillusion? They feel that their claims in the services of Government, and their part in the service of public and local bodies, have been neglected, although they were the first to collaborate with Government. I would like to utter a note of warning, not in a spirit of hostility or carping criticism, but as an appeal to the sense of fairness of those who are responsible for this Government, not to alienate the community which has done so well for them.

Then, Sir, I would say this again that I feel that this proportion of 8½ per cent. in which all minority communities are put together acts very unfairly to my community. I would much rather that these reservations were dispensed with, but for so long as they exist the fairest thing is that they should be divided fairly and squarely on a population basis amongst the communities to which this proportion is allotted. I believe, Sir, the communities which share in this allotment are the Sikhs, the Anglo-Indians, the Parsis, the Indian Christians and the Buddhists. I say, if this proportion has to be retained, let this be divided among the various communities on a strict population basis.

Take the case of key positions. I think the representatives of this community have again and again pointed out to Government that in the matter of key appointments under Government our community is completely neglected. How is it that in the Viceroy's Executive Council no non-official Indian Christian has ever come in? Every other community has found its place. I hope that merit is the guiding if not the only determining factor while making appointments to His Excellency's Executive Council. I refuse to believe that my community has never produced or is not capable of producing men to occupy such positions. I feel that if Government have felt it their duty to give representation to all communities,—and I do not know that with the exception of Buddhists—there is any community in India who have not a member on the Executive Council—then the time has come that my community should also receive a similar honour.

There is another matter. Take the Federal Services Commission. Not one member of my community has ever been appointed to the Federal Public Services Commission. If merit is the criterion I do feel that there are men in my community, with the necessary experience, with the necessary education, who ought to be given the opportunity to serve their country in this way. I am sorry that I have had to speak of these matters, but I feel it is a duty which is incumbent upon me and I have tried to urge merely that so long as the present system lasts, my community should also be given their fair and proper share in the service of their country.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, last year the Honourable the Finance Member while discussing the question of inflation said that we cannot think of fighting in the war and financing it without there being inflation. The other day, one of the other Councillors said that we, on this side of the House argue as if this country was not involved in the war.

We are fully aware that the country is taking part in war whether some people want it or not. But the question always remains as to why the effect of inflation should be so bad in this country as compared with other countries.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Which other countries?

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: England as well as America.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Why not try something nearer home?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You always want to compete with people worse than you.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I always refer to countries similarly situated.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: The Honourable the Finance Member is an Englishman and he claims to be an expert. I have no quarrel with him but he must tell us why in his own country, which is in the thickest of the fight and which is as much responsible for the war as any of those big three countries, the inflation has not affected so much the lives of the people as it has in this country. We know that prices have not increased more than 25 per cent. as compared to the pre-war prices. In America, prices have not increased more than 15 per cent. But so far as India is concerned, it refuses to come down below 250 per cent. Certainly we would like to have an explanation from the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: One reason is that it is impossible for the Chancellor of Exchequer to be censured because of the volume of public borrowing in England, or the savings drive.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Sir, excuse is always a poor argument.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This one is a very good argument.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: My Honourable friend can give us many excuses but we know it is because it is India that is ruled and that is England which is ruling that things are different. The main reason I am sure is—my Honourable friend will not deny it—that the Supply Member made this country a base for supply for not only to the civilian needs but also the war needs of all countries in the world and the Finance Member by spending only a pie produced a rupee note and with the help of the Reserve Bank put in circulation, crores of rupee notes in this country resulting in inflation. Having got inflation, he does not know how to fight it.

We have paid too heavy a price in the name of this war and in the name of inflation. Lakhs and millions have died in this country. We all know the experience of Bengal. My constituency—Malabar, South Canara and Nilgiris—has suffered a great deal on account of this inflation. Thousands have died due to disease and starvation and even today there are problems facing people there, almost similar if not the same, as we found in Bengal sometime back.

In combating inflation, the Finance Member advises people to give back those rupee notes and he is devising ways and means. Even today when he was asked whether he would circularize the provinces that coercive measures should not be used in selling war bonds, he said that they knew their job. We know what coercive measures are being adopted in the provinces and in districts in forcing these war bonds on the poor illiterate people. Sir we have never made this complaint by ways of political stunt, when we said that force was being used in its sale. It is well known. The Honourable Member refuses to enquire, he refuses to appoint a committee to enquire into these cases, he refuses to circularize. It has become a serious problem in the rural parts.

The next step which he has taken is a very dangerous one and that is imposing excise duty on certain goods which are really not excisable. I refer to the excise duty which he levied last year on betel nuts, tea and coffee. Of the three, the excise duty on betel nuts has become obnoxious, because as I understand—and I think the Honourable the Finance Member will not deny it—the excise duty is such a duty that is levied either in the process of manufacture or before sale to the consumers, and it is only today during the question hour that I found that the Honourable the Finance Member did not know the exact point in the process of manufacture or sale at

which this excise duty could be levied on betel nuts. Sir, we have seen in this country that products like vegetable products, cigars and cigarettes, salt, matches, kerosene, petrol and other articles, are subjected to excise duty. In the case of every one of these articles, there is a stage where it undergoes a certain kind of manufacturing process. But in the case of betel-nuts there is no such stage where it undergoes any process of manufacture. In the Excise Act it is said that duty will be levied on the cured betel-nuts and curing has now been interpreted as drying. Therefore from this point of view, if the Honourable the Finance Member had taken into his imagination to excise even rice and wheat, I do not think he would have been on different grounds because as we know paddy has also to be dried before rice is extracted. The fact that he has not excised paddy and rice or even milk in this country is a matter on which we must congratulate him and we should be thankful to him for this mercy. What I wish to emphasize is that the duty on betel-nut is most unjustifiable. Sir, last year we had not sufficient time to discuss this aspect of the case. In fact, this House rejected the whole Finance Bill. Therefore we had not time to go into the details. After it was certified by His Excellency the Governor General the Honourable the Finance Member has gone even to the extent of forcing some of the Native States to impose a similar duty in those States and today we find the same duty and to the same extent is being imposed in Mysore and probably to a lesser extent in Travancore and probably in the course of time this will be copied by all other Native States wherever betel nut palm is grown. The Honourable the Finance Member must have seen the debate that followed in the Mysore Assembly when the Chief Minister there introduced the Betel-nut Levy Bill. In that Assembly the Bill was thrown out. In the Mysore Council the Chief Minister begged of the members to allow that State to stand on par with British India. There also it was thrown out. Ultimately it was His Highness who certified that Bill and now it has become an Act and to the extent I have been able to collect information, I have come to know that British India is going to get Rs. 70 lakhs from Mysore whereas the Mysore Government is benefiting only to the extent of Rs. 5 or 6 lakhs.

Coming to the incidence of this taxation on betel-nuts, I should like to point out that it has virtually become a tax on the agriculturist. It is principally an agricultural product. I would like to know from the Honourable the Finance Member how wheat or rice differs from this product. All these articles are agricultural products.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Don't ask him how it differs. He may tax them also!

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: In all those places where the betel-nut is grown there is a tax by way of land revenue. In Mysore on garden the land revenue is Rs. 10 to 15 per acre. In British India for instance in South Canara, Malabar and the Nilgiris it is Rs. 10 to 13. Taking the average yield of a garden to be about two candies, we have found the average excise duty collected from one acre of betel nut garden comes to Rs. 150. That is, while the agriculturist is paying Rs. 10 to 15 towards land revenue, he is forced to pay before he is able to sell his betel nut produce Rs. 150 per acre towards excise duty.

Sir, it is likely that the Finance Member may say that we have subjected tea and coffee to the same kind of duty but the process and the manner in which it is produced is quite different. Further tea and coffee have got their marketing boards. What happened last year? Immediately this tax was imposed the Coffee Marketing Board which was selling its coffee at Rs. 80 per cwt. raised it to Rs. 94. In other words the producers of coffee got their Rs. 80 in spite of the duty. But what happened to the areca nut growers? They had to pay tax in advance before they were able to sell the betel nut. It has become in its very nature a direct tax on the agriculturist. There is no marketing board for betel nuts. There is no arrangement to keep the price at a certain economic level. Just before the war the betel-nut trade had to undergo serious difficulties. The Straits Settlements and Singapore, used to send large quantities of betel-nuts into this country. The prices were very

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low and several of these garden owners had to borrow money and carry on the agricultural operations. The moment we lost Burma and all those Straits, there was a greater demand for the betel-nut grower within the country. Therefore the prices rose a little. At this time the Government of India imposed the excise duty on it. Today we have reached a stage when the betel nut growers are thinking that if this tax were to continue it would be as well that they cut all those trees and revert to paddy growing.

When this excise duty was imposed last year, there were no specific rules. I will not be surprised if the Honourable the Finance Member says, as he said this morning, that he himself was ignorant how this betel-nut was produced, because in my constituency, South Canara,—Malabar and the Nilgiris,—the tax was forcibly collected on the crops which were harvested in the year 1943-44. It was clearly illegal, and it was not permitted under the Act; whereas such a tax was not collected in Bengal, Mysore and in some other places. I am informed that tax to the extent of nearly Rs. 15 lakhs was collected from one district alone and that is from my district of South Kanara. When they claimed that this amount should be refunded, the Department seems to be still investigating and have not yet come to a conclusion. I would request the Honourable the Finance Member to see to this aspect of the case as well, *viz.*, the hardship that was caused by enforcing all those rules, which were primarily meant for marketing of tobacco or imposing excise duty on tobacco, tea and coffee.

There is also one other aspect of the case. Under the Excise Act an uniform duty has been levied on betel-nut. It is two annas per pound. But all those who deal in betel-nut will know that there are more than a dozen varieties of betel-nuts and the prices also vary. I have found on personal investigation that the price of betel-nut in the market varies from 2 to 12 annas per lb. The lowest variety, the two annas variety is now excised at two annas per pound. Under the excise rules, I have found to my surprise that nobody can stock or keep betel nut for more than three months unless he has paid a duty on it. The difficulty arises this way. The cost of the lowest variety is two annas per lb. in the market and the duty on it is two annas per pound. Is it not a great hardship on the agriculturists? There is an option under the rules, either to destroy the stock in the presence of Excise Officer or to pay down the excise duty. Therefore the imposition of an uniform excise duty of two annas per pound on all varieties of betel nut is creating a great hardship, particularly on the producers of lowest variety of betel-nut. In these days when we have not got sufficient stock, when we are not getting imports. The lowest variety is not being marketed and it is being destroyed. Just as in the case of tobacco and other articles produced out of tobacco, there ought to be a varying rate of duty on betel nut as well, if my Honourable friend wants to continue this betel nut duty at all.

Just to give the effect of the betel nut duty in my district, I would point out that where the betel-nut garden area is only 10 per cent., the duty that will be paid by the producers comes to about Rs. 28 lakhs, whereas the 90 per cent. of the owners of land who produce paddy pay only Rs. 32 lakhs. Ten per cent. of the agriculturists have to pay 28 lakhs and 90 per cent. of the agriculturists pay 32 lakhs and that is the effect in one district. I was just trying to understand the total income the Finance Member expected in the coming year and I found that his estimate is very low. I am sure at the present rate the income is going to be a very huge figure. I hope the Finance Member will look into these various difficulties and also into the question of the legality of continuing the excise duty on betel-nut, especially on the ground that it is an excise duty directly on agricultural produce and that there will be no difference if tomorrow another Finance Member wants to impose a similar duty on rice or wheat. There would not be any difference legally. Therefore I would request the Finance Member to look into this question and the injustice that is caused by continuing the excise duty on betel-nut.

Next, I would like to refer to the food situation in the country. I am sorry the Food Member is not here. We know the country on the whole is deficit. He should not be under the impression that we attack him or argue from these benches with any political motive. I remember it was last year when he said, as if by way of threat, that he was going to enforce the food policy, whether some people were with him or not. I would like to know from the Honourable the Food Member whether in his experience and in his administration of the Department in the last two or three years he found any opposition. In fact, we on this side of the House are more anxious that the food problem should be solved without any scarcity being caused in any Province or in any part of the country.

Intimately connected with this problem is the question of the Grow More Food Campaign. We are sorry that this campaign has been only on paper. Last year we were given certain figures to show that the country produced about 3 million tons more than it produced in 1939 or 1940. But we know that those figures were all false and they did not relate to the actual state of affairs. If it were otherwise, and if the total produce was more last year than in previous years there is no reason why even today we do not have, even in those areas where there is statutory rationing, the volume of ration equivalent to one pound. The other day I put a question with regard to the volume of this ration in the different cities in the country. I found in the reply that in Delhi more than one pound is given, in Cawnpore nearly one pound is given, in Bombay more than one pound is given, whereas in my constituency, Malabar and the Nilgiris, it is only twelve ounces. In this connection I would like to refer to the resolution that was passed by the Fifth All India Food Conference which was held in the month of January. The very first resolution says that in no place more than a pound of food grains should be distributed through statutory rationing until that volume of one pound of food grains is reached in all places where statutory rationing has been introduced. Now it is nearly two months since this resolution was passed and my friend, the Honourable the Food Member, who seems to be deriving his inspiration more from this All India Food Conference than from this House is sleeping over it. I find both in the last Session as well as in this Session no opportunity was given to this House to discuss this important problem of food and whenever questions are put we get replies which are not satisfactory.

With regard to the Grow More Food Campaign I have to mention that the Forest policy that is being followed in several Provinces in this country has been greatly responsible for leaving vast areas of land fallow. I know in my own district that all those agricultural lands which can immediately produce paddy are laying waste, because the reserved forests have grown so close to these lands that it is impossible for the ryots to grow paddy in those lands. The Forest Department is doing nothing to alleviate the difficulties of the agriculturists. Therefore, Sir, this is one of the important problems, which the Honourable Member in charge of Health and Lands, should take note of and do something to see that these lands are brought under cultivation immediately.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Would the Honourable Member kindly elucidate why the proximity of reserved forests prevents cultivation? Is it owing to the depredations of forest animals?

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: The difficulty is that wild animals come down from forests and destroy the crops. Secondly all the 365 days there is terrible malaria, and people die, and there is nobody to take care of them. Thirdly, Government have not made any arrangements for distributing quinine free or for value, and there are no hospitals. I am speaking of my constituency. Sir, these are the some of the difficulties that are felt by the agriculturists.

The other factor connected with the "Grow More Food" campaign is the question of making available irrigation facilities. It is only this year, after several years of agitation, I find that the foundation stone of the Tungabhadra Project was laid. From the speech of His Excellency the Governor of Madras I find that this project will be completed only after eight years, therefore I cannot congratulate the Government of Madras. We find that out of 220 million

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acres in this country which are under food grains, it is only 56 million acres out of it that are irrigated, a very small area. Instead of bringing new lands, rather doubtful lands, under paddy or wheat, there is vast scope for irrigation in this country, and if the Honourable Member is really serious in producing more food grains, without which we all know we cannot solve the food problem, irrigation facilities must be provided to agriculturists, irrespective of cost, and we know in this country no irrigation project has been a loss: in fact, there are irrigation projects in Madras—for instance, in Andhra parts—which yield interest to the extent of 22 per cent. Even from the point of view of investment, a proper irrigation policy and projects in this country will not prove a national loss but gain. Therefore, it will be wise on the part of the Honourable Member in charge to see that immediate steps are taken to provide better irrigation facilities to the agriculturists rather than forcibly convert some lands here and some lands there from, either cashew or ground nuts to food grains.

In this respect my own constituency, which consists of South Canara and Malabar, offers large scope for minor irrigation projects. We moved this question in the local Council. The Madras Government was addressed, and they said, "Yes, we will give you some staff", but it is now more than six months, no staff has been sent, no report has been prepared, and we are wasting months after months without any advance in this matter. Therefore, the Honourable Member must insist on the representatives of the Provincial Governments to make some advance in this matter.

Then, there is the question of the manufacture of ammonium sulphate and compost. The Gregory Committee report recommended that Government must immediately take up the question of manufacture of ammonium sulphate and the production of compost from rubbish. The other day I put a question, and in reply I find that in Malabar and South Canara they produced about 220 c. ft. of compost, and that last year they were able to supply about 200 tons of ammonium sulphate. This is a poor achievement. You know that the west coast is the worst area that is suffering for want of food, and we are anxious that Bengal scenes are not re-enacted there. Therefore, it is necessary that Government should take immediate steps to see that part of the country is made self-sufficient as regards food supply as soon as possible. That is possible only if Government is really serious in supplying all the needs of the agriculturists including agricultural implements.

There is the question of import of tractors. The Gregory Committee report advised that a sufficient number of tractors must be imported so that more food could be grown. I find either from the report of the speech which the Honourable Member in charge delivered before the Fifth All-India Food Conference or from his answers here, that they have been able to import only six tractors in to this country, I do not know where they are.

There is also a dearth of agricultural implements. I must mention in this connection what I read the other day in Sir M. Visweswariah's speech in which he says that even as it is, this country with its present resources can produce four to five times more steel or just all that steel that is required in this country. But he says politically we are unable to produce more steel. I do not understand it. Will the Honourable Member in charge of Supply or the Honourable Member in charge of Health and Lands tell us why there is a dearth of steel for agricultural implements, and why agricultural implements are not produced in large quantities, or in sufficient quantities and made available to the country?

Sir, even with the available food grains, there is the question of transport. In the Madras Food Council Mr. Ramamurthy was asked why Malabar was not being given a pound of food grains per adult per day, he gave the reason that the food grains are not being moved by the railways in time. He did not say that the food grains were not available, but that the railways failed to move the food grains to Malabar. The other day I found during the railway debate bouquets and congratulations were being exchanged between the Railway Member and the Food Member, and the Food Member was saying "We are receiving all

co-operation from the Railway Board'. "I do not know who is right. Either the Madras Adviser was wrong. . . .

An Honourable Member: Both are wrong.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: If the Food Member is wrong then the Railway Member is also wrong: somebody must be in the wrong otherwise I cannot explain this inconsistency. If the railways are not providing enough wagons to move the food grains they are really at fault. I would ask the Food Member to see that these food grains are carried continually—but there is one difficulty. The internal distribution of food. The Honourable Food Member says, it rests upon the respective provinces and it is their duty to see that the food is equally distributed and fairly distributed. But to see that no part of the country suffers for want of food certainly rests upon him he cannot deny that. Therefore in this connection naturally he requires facts and figures. It is more than three years or two years now since his department was created; and even today I can say that the department is not in possession of facts and figures as to how much this country wants, or how much food a province wants: even the provincial governments are not in possession of the figures. Statistics are all faulty and they do not try to collect proper statistics. You cannot get even a district collector to say how much his district requires. Therefore, in these circumstances I would wish that wherever we have got surplus food grains, they must be moved daily and continually to the deficit areas, so that when a real deficit occurs and when there is real starvation, these officials may not run about saying "Oh, our lines are cut or engaged otherwise we cannot move the food grains".

Intimately connected with the food administration is the question of the agriculturist's getting enough food. I was going through the Butler Report. He has produced a wonderful report in which he has given his experiences. He has examined all the different systems of procurement and distribution which are prevailing in different places in the matter of food administration; and I find that the needs of the agriculturists are not looked after properly. He says:

"Another aspect more serious, perhaps, than bribery and corruption is that of petty harassment by minor officials. That it goes on to a fairly extensive degree there is no doubt. That it should and must be eliminated is equally undisputed. That Provincial and State governments do not, generally speaking, take sufficiently specific steps in this direction is, I am afraid, a fact. I suggest that all administrations should be addressed and that the greatest emphasis should be laid upon the absolute essentiality of eliminating petty harassment and instilling into all officers and staff the fundamental principle that in food matters more than in any other aspect of administration Government officers are the servants of the people in the true sense of the word."

I hope the Food Member will make a note of it. I had occasions to complain about this matter and usually he gives the explanation that it is a provincial matter. (*An Honourable Member:* "He is not here!") But I suppose this report is produced for his benefit and I hope he will take the necessary steps.

At another place, the effect of the procurement is described as follows: (p. xi)—

"One of the most vital aspects of monopoly procurement, if success is to be achieved, is to be able to assure the cultivator without any question that the interests of himself, his dependents and his village are protected, that is to say, he must, in surplus or self-sufficient villages feel that the requirements of the village will remain within the village area or at a nearby depot. Similarly, if procurement is to succeed in deficit areas, producers must be satisfied that Government is taking full responsibility for the feeding of the people and it is a curious but understandable phenomena that where the rural distribution arrangements are well organised and rural rationing is in force, procurement is found to be easier."

Therefore, these two considerations the Central Government must see are always kept before the Provincial Governments, and also see that they follow their instructions.

On the other aspect, about the price of these food grains, I am very thankful to my Honourable friend Mr. Ranga, who referred to it; but I would point out the disastrous consequences that are happening. It is true there cannot be a single price for the whole country; and it will not be possible; but there ought not to be a great difference between the prices prevailing in contiguous areas. The Butler Report says on page x:

"As an instance of what would appear to be unwarranted differentiation the case of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar may be quoted where the procurement prices fixed are approximately equivalent to Rs. 7-8-0, Rs. 6-15-0 and Rs. 6-6-0 per maund of paddy respectively."

Mr. J. D. Tyson: What page is that?

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Page x. This is in one area on the west coast; the whole area is a deficit area; why should the price in Travancore be Rs. 7-8-0 and in British Malabar Rs. 6-6-0, and in Cochin which is adjacent to British Malabar the price should be Rs. 6-15-0? He refers specifically to the Madras Presidency in his report at page v—where he says:

“These figures are all the more significant when it is appreciated that the level of grain prices in Madras has been kept consistently lower than in most other parts of India although it is, I believe, true to say that the cost of cultivation, at least in so far as the cost of labour is concerned, is lower in Madras than, for instance, in the North.”

I must point out there is some mistake in this observation. Anyway I can quote this paragraph to show that the prices in Madras are kept deliberately at a very low level, and it is lower than the price—in any other part of India. As for the argument that labour is cheap, he should have also taken into consideration the amount of production per acre; as a rule in all those areas where we do not have irrigation, the production is much lower in the Madras presidency than anywhere else in India. Therefore, while fixing the price, these considerations must also be kept in mind. As regards the price, Mr. Butler says at page iv—

“On the one hand, everyone even remotely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and also politicians will tell you that even now the cultivator is not getting a fair price for his produce and that the rise in the price of grain is not so great as the rise in the prices of consumer goods.”

Therefore the Honourable Food Member must take all these relevant points into consideration when the price is fixed or when the paddy is being snatched from the agriculturists.

In this connection I will just point out what terrible mistakes are made in certain provinces. The demand is made in some places under the Defence of India Rules, and in some places they have got separate orders: e.g., in Madras we have got the Grain Procurement Order, which requires that a Government requisitioning officer should visit every cultivator's house and fix the surplus which he must be able to deliver or sell and in Bombay we have got the Levy Order. I was just going through this levy order and I found that a man who is paying Rs. 100 as assessment has to deliver 1250 *pylees* of rice which comes to 120 standard maunds. I have studied the question of production and from all that I know I can say that if 120 maunds of rice is taken forcibly from a person who is paying Rs. 100 as assessment in a ryotwari area, it is impossible for the family to live. There will be nothing left to live upon; either he will not have 120 maunds to give or if you forcibly take it, there will be nothing left for him to eat; and the working of this levy order, as I see it almost daily in the vernacular papers from Bombay, has led to complaints that the levy has been very excessive; and thousands of petitions and objections that are filed by the agriculturists are not heard and no final orders passed. I have got the same picture in my district. Thousands and thousands of objections are filed against requisition orders but they are not heard. At some time or other, Government, will forcibly take whatever is left. This state of affairs, as I said some time back when I was speaking on the cut motion on this matter, should end. We should not think that it is the towns men alone who have got a right to live. If you are going to deny enough food to the very producer, you have no right to exist. (An Honourable Member: “Production will go down next year.”) We are not against rationing. We are not against taking whatever surplus is available but we are against the suffering which the producers are put to. Let me make it clear that we are not afraid of the consequences, if the producers are forced to suffer in the manner in which they are suffering today. The situation is going to be very serious unless the Government of India instruct the provinces to see that the producers are not treated badly and in the manner in which they are treated today I am sorry to mention it in this House. In a place where there is no rationing, a fairly rich landholder, a respectable landholder died and his family was celebrating his obsequies and

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they were feeding some 50 or 60 people. Rationing rules have application in that locality. The Tahsildar with a posse of police and the Sub-Inspector of Police went to the House and they entered the House when the people were eating. All people got up because outsiders entered the House. The Tahsildar and the other people went to the kitchen and examined every vessel in which the food was cooked. No steps were taken against them in spite of the fact that this high handed action of theirs was brought to the notice of Government. This is too serious. We have no objection to your introducing rationing in every village. We will give you all co-operation. We are more anxious than you are to solve the food problem of the country but if you want to solve it, solve it properly.

I should now like to refer to one other matter connected with the road policy of the Government of India. We find that the road fund is not being fully utilised for the development of roads in this country. Many of the villages do not have even *kucha* roads and the money earned by the excise duty, i.e., the duty levied on petrol is not being utilised for the construction of roads. In these days we are anxious that the movement of foodgrains should be facilitated without any difficulty and roads are absolutely essential. Therefore it is proper that the Government must devote some road funds towards the development of village roads. Even the motor traffic that we had in the past has been cut down to a large extent. We find on the roadside hundreds of people waiting for one lorry carrying 25 persons. Hundreds of people who want to travel don't get seats. Therefore I would request the Government of India to see that the buses which they obtain on lease-land are assigned to the respective provinces in large numbers. The question may arise that this would be a heavy drain on petrol but luckily the use of charcoal gas in South India as well as other places has been a success and its use should be encouraged in all these public vehicles and petrol should be saved as much as possible.

There is also the other problem of petrol not being distributed on a reasonable basis to the civil consumers. I find that a man owning a car which is more than 10 Horse Power is given 12 gallons for three months, that is four gallons a month. With four gallons he cannot take his car more than 50 miles. You find the same story with regard to supplementary rations. They are not given, unless a man proves that either he is converted with some war effort or he is in the National War Front or he is in the food administration. It is almost impossible to get supplementary coupons for ordinary car owners. Therefore I would request the Government of India to call for these figures and to see whether it is not possible to increase the basic ration of the civil consumer. I find that logs of wood are being carried in our province in lorries which use petrol and the passengers are not being so carried. I also find that municipal lorries driven by petrol are used to carry rubbish whereas municipal members cannot get petrol. After all there is no urgency in the matter of firewood. These lorries which carry only firewood or rubbish should be allowed to use only charcoal gas and more petrol should be saved and given to civil consumers. The present basic rate should be increased to at least 6 gallons per month of 18 gallons a quarter, as was originally the case.

I now come to the Department of Education, Health and Lands. We find the Government of India complaining that they are not getting enough educated men for the various industries and other technical jobs.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have now spoken for about an hour.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: I shall finish in five minutes. The Sargent scheme requires about 300 crores a year to put it into practice and we are really sorry to see that the Government of India have not yet published their decision, whether they are going to accept that scheme or not. In this connection I would like the Government of India to help substantially the Benares Hindu University, the Aligarh and Delhi Universities to enable them to start technical training colleges and to enable them take in at least one thousand students each. This is the only way by which higher technical education could be encouraged in this country. I feel that sending a large number of

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students outside this country for training is a huge waste. I would rather recommend a larger grant being given to these institutions.

I shall now refer to the Department of Archeology. I find that this department has no archeological policy, just as admittedly the Government of India had no mineral policy till now. The whole country is divided into 3 or 4 circles and we find that the work they produce is very little and the places which ought to have been explored have not been properly explored. Therefore I would request the Government of India to devote some time to see that in the case of those places which are not explored, particularly in Karnatak consisting of Belgaum, Dharwar and North Canara, sufficient grants should be made for exploring those areas.

Sir, the last point that I would touch is in regard to labour. The other day I put some questions and the Honourable the Supply Member was pleased to say that all the workers in Aravankadu Ordnance Factory, in the Nilgiris, which is in my constituency, were satisfied and that those objections which I put before him were only made by a very small number of workers, about 100 out of 3,500. Whether the complaints are made by one worker or 100 workers out of 3,500 workers, the small number of complaints should not stand in the way of redressing the grievances of the workers. What do I find here? I find that women coolies get six annas a day and the male coolies get about 14 annas a day. In this place where rice is selling at three seers to a rupee, what can woman cooly do with six annas. Sir, this happens in a Government owned ordnance factory. It is not a private factory. In all these labour matters, I want the Government of India must properly look after their own labourers working in the several ordnance factories, which I understand are about 20 in number in this country. The Government should introduce all those new reforms and projects before they compel the private industrialist in this country. On the other hand what do we find. The labourers working in private industries are much better off than those working in ordnance factories. The other day, my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi referred to the Aravankadu factory and I am very thankful to him. There are many complaints with regard to this factory and I do hope that the Government would look into the matter. The workers there do not get proper medical help, they do not get food grains, there is no cheap food grain shop for workers, people have to walk long distances in cold nights, and they are not provided with warm clothing. These are some of the complaints which I am sorry to say the Superintendent of the Factory seems to have refused to look into and he at one time seems to have refused to see even the leader of the Labour Union. This state of affairs cannot be tolerated. I wish Government will see their way, to treat these workers under them properly.

Now, Sir, there is only one more point, that is with regard to the two Bills that are before the Assembly, the Insurance Bill and the Banking Bill. I understand that the Income-tax Bill is about to be withdrawn. I wish, Sir, the other two Bills are also withdrawn. I, for one, would like that the Government of India instead of taxing the people and the consumers even instead of raising E.P.T., should start State Insurance and State Banking. All the profits which today are being appropriated by capitalists will get into Government coffers and we are here to support that move on the part of the Government. Instead of that, the Government are trying to kill these small Banks and the small Insurance Companies by bringing these Bills. It looks as if the Government are only prepared to destroy and not to construct. Sir, with these few remarks, I resume my seat.

Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury (Assam: Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, at the outset I want to point out that in my speech, I will make mention of subjects which will concern the Honourable the Food Member, the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, the Secretary to the War Department, Secretary, Posts and Air and the Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands. I find only the Secretary to the Department of Education, Health and Lands is present in the House and other Members

concerned are not present. I do hope that what I will say will be conveyed to the other Members concerned.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Will you kindly repeat?

Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: The Food Member, the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, The War Secretary, the Secretary, Posts and Air and the Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands.

Sir, I am seriously concerned about the ever mounting defence expenditure of the Budget presented to us. This staggering expenditure of over 456 crores of rupees are ten times the pre-war figure. Besides this 456 crores of rupees, there are many concealed items of expenditure debited to India. We are told that these expenditures are for the defence of India. The question which is looming large in my mind is, is it for India's defence or are we spending for the vested interests of British imperialism? I think Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan has rightly said that shackled Indians are paying and fighting for others' cause. Justice demands that this staggering expenditure should be borne by His Majesty's Government.

Sir, we were told that every country suffered during the war and as India is at war, so her suffering is inevitable. We are gladly agreeable to undergo more suffering, if we get our freedom and right of self-determination. We are suffering not for our cause but for British vested interest. Apart from the staggering sums of money spent and various contributions made, India has sustained the greatest loss in terms of human suffering. Epidemic and famine are twin illegitimate war babies. Bengal lost over 35 lakhs of her population in starvation and another 35 to 40 lakhs have been crippled by various epidemics. We have paid so much at the altar of war goddess for nothing. Other countries will be free. they will have their own right of self-determination. they will have their liberty to reconstruct and rebuild their future in a way they like. but we suffered so much, paid so much, we showed so much courage and sacrifice. we underwent so much suffering, not for our interest but for the domination of British rule.

Sir, we are told of horrifying acts of cruelties, murders, slaughters by German and Jap fascism. They are really horrifying. In my district in Baniachong village alone, over 14,000 people died of malaria. The Secretary to the Department of Education, Health and Lands in reply to a question of mine the other day said that only 9,000 people died. I want to tell him that he is not correct. These staggering deaths occurred for want of quinine and proper food and the contagion came from war projects. There was no food or quinine because of war. Are not such staggering number of deaths in one single village under British rule more horrifying?

Sir, as one representing the Province of Assam, I want to tell the Honourable House that our province stands on an entirely different footing as compared to other provinces inasmuch as Assam has actually been in the war zone. Our province had to face an enemy within her frontiers. But, Sir, just as the soldiers fight in the battle field and the war profiteers make profit sitting at home, so our province, is bearing all the hardship of being in the war zone while provinces remote from the war zone are busy strengthening their resources. I beg to be excused for this observation by my Honourable friends from other provinces. They are busily setting up new industries and they are fortifying their positions for the post-war period.

As it is, Assam is a very undeveloped Province. We have not got institutions that are considered essential for the progress and development of a province. We have not got any University, Engineering College, nor have we got any Medical or Agricultural College. We have not even got the money necessary to start institutions like these. We have not got money to harness our rich undeveloped resources for productive purposes. In the past, ours have been a series of deficit budgets.

We are confronted with the anomalous position that a province like Assam which is an operational area is suffering all the ills of inflation, because the Central Government which command all the transport resources cannot pump

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into my province a supply of consumers' goods to meet the bare necessities of life. We have the ridiculous position that provinces in the rear which are not beset with the war problems of Assam are enabled to cash in on war-time prosperity by developing their existing industries, by starting new industries with direct financial assistance from the Central Government, by manufacturing articles of war which are sent to Assam to choke the lines of communication in the province which might otherwise have been available for importing essential goods. The plain truth is that other provinces are profiting by the geographical accident that Assam is nearest to enemy territory, that Assam's communications are required primarily for munitions of war, and that it has not been able to add to its three major industries, namely, oil, tea and coal. There is extreme scarcity of commodities like salt, sugar, clothes, etc. in Assam. Rich and poor equally suffered and are still suffering for want of these essential commodities.

Sir, in my province of Assam every steamer that plies in the rivers is either owned by India General Navigation Co., Ltd. (incorporated in England) or River Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (incorporated in England); most of the tea gardens are owned by European firms, and our oil resources are in the hands of foreigners.

In reply to a question the other day regarding conditions in the River Steam Navigation factory at Fenchuganj, I was told that it is a provincial subject; but the company which controls the entire river steam transport of the country is strong enough not to be influenced by any observation of the Provincial Government. That is why I wanted to point out here that out of 145 workers in the factory more than 82 are getting less than one rupee a day as wages in these hard times. But the reply to the questions was avoided by the War Secretary.

Sir, the Government of Assam have made every effort to improve the provincial finance. They have made every effort to improve their position. But still we find that nothing effective could be done. The Government of India have given us doles in the shape of reduction of the slabs in the civil defence budget, exemption from the payment for Assam Rifles, some assistance in the matter of Grow More Food campaign. In the words of the Finance Minister of Assam, "what Assam wants from the Government of India is not doles but equitable share".

Assam is deplorably poor, the standard of living of her population is very low. It cannot be raised without the help of the Central Government. The Niemeyer Award gave Assam only 80 lakhs of rupees annually from the Central Government. It is painful to tell this Honourable House that apart from petrol tax and normal cess on tea, only by assessing an excise duty of annas two per pound on our tea, the Central Government is pocketing 3½ crores of rupees, which is more than the pre-war revenue of Assam. We have been agitating for a long time for the revision of the Niemeyer Award; but in spite of the justice of the cause the matter still remains where it was. I appeal to Government not to stick to the Niemeyer Award dogmatically but to reconsider and re-allot a greater sum for my war-ravaged province.

Sir, if the Government of India would be serious to grow more food, then hundreds of acres of land would not lie fallow in my province of Assam. There is the line system in Assam. This line system prevents immigrants from the districts of Bengal to settle and cultivate lands in Assam and even to be employed as labourers within the line.

To raise the standard of the people of Assam, to secure advance in education, in health and other matters, we must be assured of ample food for ourselves and to export to deficit areas for importing such goods which we need most. Greater areas of Assam can be brought under cultivation and the Grow More Food campaign can be made successful, provided the Central Government care to do it.

Sir, His Excellency the Governor of Assam while addressing the Assam Assembly on the 16th November last said:

"Mymensingh immigrants who have no advantage in education or health over Assamese people, produce two to three times the amount from the same acreage."

Still they are evicted and driven from the land where they have settled for several years. This shows that if the fallow lands are distributed to these landless cultivators for cultivation more food can be had.

The stock arguments against abolition of Line System are baseless apprehension of over-population, hampering the interest of tribal people and lastly the question of peace. Sir, the question of over-population is absolutely baseless. With Assam's immense natural resources and by developing agriculture and industry both extensively and intensively, more and more people can be provided in Assam. Regarding the misapprehension of hampering the interest of tribal and indigenous population of Assam, there is enough fallow land and keeping a portion reserved the rest can be distributed amongst the landless immigrants.

Sir, His Excellency the Governor of Assam admitted in his speech of 16th November last:

"Nowhere else in India has there been such a mixture of races as in the Assam Valley and nowhere have the peoples lived in more harmony."

Still the question of peace comes! Peace will be disturbed, more shooting will take place if there are men without land, whereas thousands of acres of fallow land lie for nothing.

Sir, His Excellency the Governor of Assam on the 16th November spoke about two analogies, Palestine and South Africa, in regard to the abolition of the Line System. We never support the South African Government for ousting the Indians who through toil and suffering brought prosperity to that country. The right of Indians in South Africa must be respected and protected. The Palestine analogy, I think, was inappropriately quoted in connection with the removal of the Line System. The British Government, after the first world war, brought Jews from various European countries and grafted them in Palestine, gave them lands which were previously owned by the Arabs. In Assam the immigrants can be given fallow lands, not those lands which are owned by the people.

Sir, all taxes are ultimately borne by the consumers. The peasant's only recreation is tobacco and betel-nuts. These commodities have been taxed to deprive the poor people from their only recreation. The total amount of taxes collected on tobacco and betel-nuts is meagre in comparison with the huge war expenditure. Cannot the Honourable the Finance Member ask His Majesty's Government to pay this petty sum or raise it in India by loans to give relief to the poor people? Sir, Bengal and parts of Surma Valley of my province are the main growing centres of betel-nuts and the imposition of excise duty on betel-nuts tells heavily on the poor growers as well as the poor consumers to whom it is a cheap recreation. The imposition of excise duty on betel-nuts, irrespective of the prices of the different qualities, is wholly unreasonable. Bengal and parts of Surma Valley are the producers of poorest and cheapest quality of betel-nuts. The present price of betel-nut varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 40 per maund without duty and the excise duty of the cheaper quality works out as high as 100 per cent. and on the superior quality as about 25 to 40 per cent. The main burden, therefore, falls on the already heavily burdened poor consumers. In all fairness this excise tax on betel-nuts should be abolished and relief must be given to the poor people.

Sir, I am receiving letters and telegrams from every trade centre of my province that there is no cloth in the market. A man-made famine in cloth has been created in the country. The food famine was limited to Bengal, Orissa and Travancore but the cloth famine is everywhere throughout India today. In spite of a huge paraphernalia of a Textile Directorate we are being thrown into a barbaric stage of civilisation. Government should see that the distribution is made through proper persons and cloth is available in all parts of the country.

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

[Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury.]

Sir, when thousands and thousands of people were dying from starvation in my neighbouring province of Bengal, huge quantities of foodgrains were kept in stock purchased at an unfair price from the agriculturists and were allowed to decompose. The ban on export aggravated the Bengal famine. What a greater calamity can be brought on this earth by the present most irresponsible Government? Sir, during the last two years enormous quantities of foodgrains have been decomposed in various places. In most of the cases decomposition occurred for not storing them properly. I am sure if the quantity of foodgrains that have been rendered useless by this irresponsible Government were left in the hands of the people, or various local organisations, many of the valuable lives in Bengal could be saved. Let the Government publish facts regarding total quantities of decomposed food side by side with their much-advertised achievements from Grow More Food campaign. I am sure it will be seen that we lost more food than what was grown as a result of the Grow More Food campaign.

Sir, I am talking of last December when monopoly purchasing agents in Surma Valley offered only Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 3-8-0 per maund of paddy. For obtaining a seer of mustard oil, salt and kerosene, one had to sell a maund of paddy. Common sense says that the price of a commodity should be fixed at such a rate, so that the seller can purchase his requirements with the price obtained. But this policy was not followed in Surma Valley. Thus the agriculturists were deprived of the fair price and the stores were allowed to be decomposed.

The Honourable the Food Member the other day in reply to the cut motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. Dam, said that he made exhaustive tour in Assam. I know what was the extent of his tour. He went to Sylhet one afternoon and left for Shillong the following morning where he put up in the Government House and left Shillong the following morning, came to Sylhet and then left Assam. No public representatives could see him or talk to him. He got all the information given by the Government officials there.

Now, the Assam Government has adopted a policy of direct official procurement. There should be a ceiling price for rice and paddy in parity with prices of other essential commodities required by the peasants. If that is not done, Surma Valley peasants will be compelled to sell their products at a much cheaper price and buy their necessities at a higher price. This will mean that many of their essential requirements will remain outside their reach and thus there will be further deterioration of their already ruined condition.

Sir, in Assam there has been an appalling deterioration in postal service. I draw the attention of the Secretary, Posts and Air Department, to this fact.

Sir, I will not take much time of this Honourable House, and will conclude by referring to two points which I hope the War Secretary will kindly note. Many houses and educational institutions have been requisitioned for war purposes in my province. Now that war conditions have improved, may we not expect that our educational institutions and houses will be given back to us?

Then, Sir, for the purposes of landing grounds and aerodromes, villages have been acquired but unfortunately the question of compensation is still pending in several cases, and this has caused unspeakable hardships on those who had to leave their hearth and home. My Honourable friend Mr. Dam raised the question and he had some correspondence with the Central Government but it was of no use. When I was coming to Delhi on the 1st of February, people from Kuffaura, Akhalia, and Shalutikar met me and told that they had not yet received proper compensation. I request the Government to take immediate and proper steps so that all those people may get their compensation money without further delay in respect of all land acquired for military purposes.

With these words, Sir, I conclude.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, at the outset before I speak I would like to say that the points on which I propose speaking relate mostly to the Finance Department,

the Industries and Civil Supplies Department and there are one or two points relating to the Defence Department. I am sorry the Honourable the Finance Member is not here.

Sir, I quite realize that in the midst of a total war it is not right and proper for us to question the justification or otherwise of the methods adopted to secure the essential requirements of the various Services, nor is it desirable to go into the various items of expenditure. Although we have spent a considerable amount both on revenue and capital heads, under the head of 'Defence' in the last few years, it is rather strange that, unlike what has happened in Canada and Australia, the expenditure does not seem to have left us with any defensive strength of a permanent value. Is it not surprising that even under the stress of war, Australia, a far off Eastern Continent, with comparatively less natural advantages than India, has been able to build up Aircraft and Shipbuilding industries capable of meeting the requirements of war? Even in the matter of Navy and Air Force, what we now possess cannot surely be regarded as adequate to the size and requirements of our country.

I would like to make a submission in regard to the colossal expenditure on Defence. If Government are really anxious to allay the misgivings in the minds of people of all sections, with regard to the justification of the huge unproductive expenditure on Defence and if Government are really desirous of infusing confidence in the people of the country, it would be highly advisable to have the co-operation and assistance of a non-official Committee of Financial Experts of the country to scrutinize the expenditure, not with the idea of finding faults with past actions, but with a view to avoid the recurrence of errors of omission and commission. The impression legitimately prevailing in the minds of even responsible persons seems to be that, under the pretext of war, any amount of waste is permissible, and that anything can be done with impunity in the matter of handling the tax-payer's money.

The next point I wish to refer to is the question of sterling balances. The accumulation of sterling balances in London during the last few years has been a source of anxiety to this country, and a good deal of controversy is raging round the question of the means of its realisation by this country. High hopes were raised when the President of the United States of America convened a Conference of the United Nations at Bretton Woods to find a solution for the various monetary problems which would confront the world after the war. The Indian delegation, which consisted partly of officials and partly of non-officials, all men of great capacity and integrity suggested that the Sterling balances, which the United Kingdom owed to India, should be liquidated through the mechanism of the International Monetary Fund which was proposed to be set up. Curiously enough, the Indian delegation was asked by the American Government delegates to seek the solution of our problems through a bilateral arrangement with the United Kingdom. Thus, the very objective of concerted multilateral action was defeated by suggesting recourse to bilateral action. If the question of the orderly liquidation of India's sterling balances is not to come within the jurisdiction of the proposed International Monetary Fund, we do not quite understand what benefit India is likely to derive by joining the Scheme. It looks like saying: Your problems are your own, but do come to assist us in solving the difficulties of others.

Sir, Sterling balances are mounting up every day. Having regard to the magnitude of these balances, it is obvious that they cannot be liquidated overnight. The great Allied Nations are not going to assist us. It is, therefore, essential that some arrangement should be reached with regard to the principles governing the manner in which the liquidation is to take place. It cannot be denied that, as a creditor, India should have her say in regard to the form and the period during which the repayment should be effected, subject, of course, to the limitations of the returning capacity of the United Kingdom. The Finance Member has told us that since many of the material data are still incomplete and uncertain, no negotiations can usefully be entered upon with His Majesty's Government until after the end of the war with

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Germany. The answer is strange and if anything is likely to confirm the suspicion of the intentions of the debtor. I am not suspecting the Finance Member. I know he is doing his best to fight our case and safeguard our interests. But the earlier an arrangement is reached the better it would be in the interest of both parties.

I now come to the question of the Empire dollar pool. Since the inauguration of the Empire dollar pool, India is being made to contribute to it all the dollars that accumulate to her credit. It is true that India has been allotted every year a certain amount of dollars from this dollar pool. It is, however, strange that a statement of accounts on the operations of the pool is not forthcoming. Last year, the Finance Member was good enough to refer to His Majesty's Government's willingness to set aside, each year, as a special case, a part of the dollars accruing from India's exports surplus to the United States of America. He has just informed us that the Government of India, after a very careful examination of current figures and tendencies, have agreed to accept an amount of 20 million dollars for the calendar year 1944 and a similar amount for 1945, these amounts being earmarked for India's post-war development. This is indeed a small mercy for which we are thankful to the Finance Member.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): You are always thankful for small mercies.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: What can we do when the people on the other side are not prepared to take office?

I next come to the question of commercial safeguards in the Government of India Act. I am sorry that I did not say that I would also like to have the Member for Planning and Development also present when I am speaking.

I refer to the legitimate agitation amongst the nationals of this country for the deletion of those clauses in the Government of India Act of 1935 which relate to commercial safeguards, on the ground that those were put up specially to protect the interests of British and foreign commercial interests in the country at a time when India was in the position of a debtor to the United Kingdom. It is urged that those safeguards, which are looked upon as a provision to make discrimination in favour of British interests, should be done away with having regard to the fact that the table has now been reversed by India having become a creditor nation. I wholeheartedly agree with the Member for Planning and Development when he said that the solution of this problem must be sought not in a spirit of mutual antagonism and mistrust, but of mutual co-operation and goodwill. It is a matter of some satisfaction that the Government of India are taking active steps to bring home to His Majesty's Government the existing snags in the Indian Constitution and to set right the position.

I hope when the Member for Planning and Development visits the United Kingdom shortly he will be able to come back with some achievement in his pocket.

I would here refer to a very important questions for us. I shall refer to it very briefly—the post-war requirements of capital goods. I would make reference to a matter which has been exercising the minds of us, the manufacturers. As the House will doubtless appreciate, we would require a considerable amount of capital goods in the immediate post-war period—and I am referring to my own industry—and several mills in this country have already placed orders with the representatives of manufacturers of capital goods for various types of capital goods, even with a deposit of a certain percentage of their estimated value. The orders placed are still in the books of the manufacturers and we have given 5 per cent. deposit. The terms and conditions, under which these payments have been made, however, stipulate that they will be forfeited in case the goods are not accepted by the indentors within a reasonable time.

This was the position before the Planning and Development Department was formed and before Government came on the scene. Government have since announced a scheme of registration of capital goods and have declared their intention that if necessary they will exercise control in the matter of allocating priorities. We paid this 5 per cent. deposit on the ground that we were told by the British manufacturers that the priority for deliveries would remain on the dates of the booking of orders, which can be booked after the receipt of the five per cent. deposit. Now that the Government have told us that they are going to control priorities, we would like to know the position with regard to the orders already placed by us with the manufacturers. If, as is proposed now, the Government would come in to distribute machinery on a controlled basis, we feel that it is only fair that these amounts which were paid to secure priority should be returned to us, so that there is one authority to control priorities. We were told when we had an interview with the Planning and Development Department in Bombay that Mr. Pillai, the Secretary of Commerce Department who had been deputed to England, would be discussing these matters with His Majesty's Government. I understand he has returned and I hope the Planning and Development Member will be in a position to make a statement on the subject.

Now, Sir, I come to another very important matter, namely, the question of the consumers' goods. The other day, Sir, when the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, in reply to a supplementary question of mine said that the proposal to import 10 million yards of cloth in 1945 had been communicated not only to the Chairman of the Control Board but formally placed before the Textile Control Board I was taken aback.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): I do not think I said that.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: That is the report which I had sent to me by the official reporters. I wired to the Chairman of the Textile Control Board because I take pride in the fact that I have a good memory. I was present at the meeting of the Board throughout and I did not remember any reference to the Government proposal to import 10 million yards. However, I did not like to contradict the Honourable Member but I went for verification to two members of the Control Board who happened to be in Delhi and they also were of the same opinion. I also got a reply from the Chairman of the Control Board yesterday. In his reply he said:

"Statement made Industry Member proposed import ten million yards British cloth was not referred. Six months back Government put forward proposal through Commerce Department for import 20 million yards fine cloth from U. S. A. and U. K. I opposed such imports on ground that they being subsidised cloth will unfairly compete with Indian equivalent types. As alternative suggested that Government may relieve Indian industry from exporting to countries which India is not likely retain after War by allowing British Textiles to those countries. Welcomed import of fine yarn 40's count and over to maximum 5 million lbs. and any quantity double yarn available to relieve handloom weavers. Have put these views on record with Textile Commissioner."

So the proposal to import these 10 million yards was neither communicated to the Chairman of the Textile Control Board nor formally placed before the Board, nor discussed, nor were we aware of it. So I want to correct the impression that the Textile Control Board are a party to the importation of this foreign cloth from the United Kingdom or the United States of America.

This brings me to the general question of the importation of consumers' goods. The consumers' goods scheme seems to me, Sir, to be rather a brilliant stroke of British commercial diplomacy and is fully in keeping with the traditions of British business, but it does not do much credit to the foresight and imagination of the Government of India. The ostensible purpose of the Hydari Mission is to give relief to the Indian economy but when we consider it against the background of the British export drive—and we are reading in the papers nothing but the determination of the British commercial magnates to make an intensive export drive—we cannot be too sure that this somewhat belated, and rather ominous, awakening on the part of the Government of India of their

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responsibility to the Indian consumer is not at least partly due to the organised pressure of foreign commercial interests. His Majesty's Government have left us in no doubt about their commercial policy. As the President of the Board of Trade recently stated, Britain will need at least a 50 per cent increase in her export trade, as compared with the pre-war level. Since the outbreak of war, British exports have already shrunk by about 250 million sterling. The policy of increasing exports by 50 per cent. over the pre-war level would mean that Britain will try to recapture markets for £250 million, which have been lost during the war and find additional markets for £250 million. The American industrialists have declared a similar objective of raising their exports to double the pre-war figure, *i.e.*, from 1,000 million to 2,000 million dollars. Reports are daily pouring in of the preparations being made by the United Kingdom business interests to re-establish their position in the Eastern markets. We do not propose to emulate their example, but helpless as we are, I presume we are expected to dig our heads into the sand and refuse to read the signs of the times. We are expected, I believe, to lull ourselves into the belief that the consumers Goods Scheme is not inspired by any other motive than a genuine regard for the interests of the Indian consumer.

What are the chances of Indian industries against this menace of foreign consumer goods? We are told that Government propose to continue the system of quantitative restrictions and fix quotas in such a way as to allow sufficient scope for the existing Indian industries. The scheme sounds eminently reasonable, on paper. If the Government are really to fulfil their avowed intentions, they must have in their possession sufficient information, not merely about the existing production, but also the productive capacity of the numerous industries, big and small, which have come into existence or have expanded, during the war. We have passed through 5½ years of abnormal trading conditions, and a number of new factories have come into existence in miscellaneous lines, such as chemicals, Mill stores, drugs cutlery, etc., either directly as part of the war effort or for meeting the needs of the civilian markets which were formerly supplied by imports. I do not think that Government possess sufficient information to enable them to decide the fate of all these industries which are scattered all over the face of the country and which will be directly affected by the proposed policy of encouraging consumer goods imports. A few organised industries like textiles, paper, etc., may be able to assist Government with the necessary data, but the many new factories which have come into existence have no organisation of any kind and their interests also deserve to be protected. The Supply Department is concerned only with such Industries as come into the purview of war contracts, but even with regard to these, I am not sure that their interests will be safe, if the Government merely rely on the necessarily scanty data which the Supply Department have collected as a by-product of their main business of placing contracts. The Industries Department is the only Department technically concerned with the other small industries, which cater for the civil markets but we have not so far heard of any systematic attempt by that Department during the two years of its existence to collect comprehensive data about the productive capacity of these industries. In these circumstances it is idle to pretend that Government are really in a position to afford adequate protection to the numerous small industries which are in different stages of infancy against this threat of foreign imports.

It is certainly realised that no elaborate enquiry into the position of different industries is perhaps possible at this stage until at least the permanent Tariff Board which has been promised by the Planning and Development Member comes into being. But that is no excuse for inaction. We cannot afford a repetition of the experience of the last war when so many newly established concerns were allowed to perish in the few years following the cessation of hostilities. In any programme of post-war industrial development, our first duty should be to preserve and consolidate the industries which have already

been established, before turning our attention to the development of new industries. Nor, on the other hand, can Government say that protection in due course will be afforded by the Tariff Board? It will be a case of bolting the stable after the horse is stolen.

In course of time the number and variety of consumer goods for which Government will have to fix quotas will go on increasing and I do not think Government can perform this function, satisfactorily unless they take into confidence the various interests which are affected by their action. It is high time that the Government evolved some procedure for consulting the interests concerned. Mere *ad hoc* consultation will not suffice for the purpose, and I would suggest that a satisfactory procedure would be for Government to announce beforehand the global quotas which they propose to fix for different categories of consumer goods, with comparative figures of pre-war imports and invite comments from the interests concerned before a specified date. I do not think any harm is likely to result if Government disclose their intention beforehand regarding the quotas they propose to fix. A public notice of this kind will at least give a warning of Government's intentions to the numerous unorganised industries which are likely to be affected and give them an opportunity to present their case in time, instead of their having to wait until the threat of imports has actually materialised and the Government in the meanwhile deciding their fate in complete ignorance of their position. If any complaints are received against the quotas proposed by Government, they should be considered in consultation with a Standing Advisory Committee which should be representative of industrial as well as importing interests.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: As well as of consumers.

Sir Vithal N. Ohandavarkar: This is obviously an emergency procedure and is no substitute for long term arrangements but is necessary to meet the present situation. I must emphasise that there is a fundamental difference between war-time and peace-time controls, and if India is to achieve a smooth transition from war to peace economy, Government must make the maximum use of consultation with commercial and industrial interests. Any lengthy process of trial and error, similar to that we have already gone through with regard to wartime imports, will be disastrous to India's future interests.

I will illustrate my remarks by mentioning cases of two or three industries. I understand—I have not been able to verify the figures yet—that the productive capacity of this country for manufacturing electric bulbs is about six lakhs of bulbs. The annual consumption is about 16 lakhs and there is a gap of ten lakhs. There is a great shortage of bulbs and Government have ordered the importation of a large number of bulbs. The bulb manufacturers naturally fear that if these foreign bulbs come in large numbers the industry which they have established during war time would be jeopardised. I am told the position is the same with regard to the manufacture of bottles and other glass ware. Therefore I say to the Government—that I am not against the importation of consumers' goods both as an anti-inflationary measure and in meeting the requirements of the civilian population—I am anxious that this Government which established the Planning and Development Department and brought to the Treasury Bench one of the most distinguished businessmen of the country, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, should be careful in their policy of importation of consumers' goods. If the importation of consumers' goods is followed without any investigation or enquiry the position will be the same as after the last war and I think my Honourable friend Sir Ardeshir will then be well advised to pack-up his kit and go back to Bombay by the first Frontier Mail.

I am taking up a new point. Can I take it up tomorrow morning?

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 20th March, 1945.