

[Mr. Speaker]

Four hours may be too long; we cannot find that much time. In between, we can strike a *via media* and have three hours; we can have two hours, to be extended by one hour, subject to the discretion of the Chair.

RESOLUTION re: —PRESIDENT'S
PROCLAMATION re: TRAVAN-
CORE-COCHIN

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take further consideration of the following Resolution moved by Pandit G. B. Pant on the 31st August, 1956, namely:—

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 23rd March, 1956, under Article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of Travancore-Cochin and approved by the resolutions passed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on the 29th March, 1956 and the 24th April, 1956, respectively."

Four hours were allotted of which two hours and fifty-seven minutes have been taken. One hour and three minutes now remain. Shri Kottukappally may continue.

Shri Kottukappally (Meenachil): Sir, Shri Punnoose in his speech yesterday said that when Mr. Rau, the Adviser to the Rajpramukh, made an appeal for industrial peace in Travancore-Cochin State, he was, to some extent, taking the side of the employers. What actually he said is this: "While Government would sternly set their face against attempts on the part of employers to deny their workers the rights and privileges secured to them under our labour laws, or give them in a niggardly or half-hearted manner, Government also expect labour leaders to discourage the continual waving of flags and such other things." He was not arguing the case of the employers at all. Nobody can deny the fact that industries are adversely affected by the continuous

trouble and disturbance among the labour class in the Travancore-Cochin State. It is a fact; it is truth, just truth. I would also make the same appeal to my friends of the leftist parties that the Adviser has made. It is a good advice that he has tendered. Let there be peace in that region.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara) rose—

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members shall put question only at the end of an hon. Members' speech.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Then it will lose the context.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Is the hon. Member aware that in Travancore-Cochin State, from 1947 to 1955, the number of strikes and lock-outs, and the loss of man-days has been the lowest in the whole of India?

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara-Reserved-Sch. Castes): It is stated in the publication itself.

Shri Kottukappally: I have no statistics about working hours with me, but it is common knowledge everywhere in India, even in Europe and in the United States, that the most troublesome spot so far as labour is concerned is unhappily my Travancore-Cochin State. I do not think that members of the leftist parties over there would put their hands on their breasts and say that it is false information. I would also ask them, in the interests of the future of our State, in the interests of the working class so that people from outside may go over to Travancore-Cochin and set up industries of all kinds, to see that there is some industrial peace. If there be some dispute between the labour and employer, let that dispute be decided by arbitration and by negotiation. If our friends the leaders of the leftist parties would give a signed declaration that for the next five years or so every dispute between

the employers and employees would be decided by arbitration and negotiation, I am sure industrialists from Bombay, Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Madras, Coimbatore and other places and industrialists from outside India will go over to Travancore-Cochin State and decide to set up new industries.

Shri Velayudhan: The hon. Member himself is trying to set up some industries.

Shri Kottukappally: I will try, if you won't give trouble.

Sir, I was mentioning yesterday about some major industries to be established in Travancore-Cochin State. Now there are the highlands of Devikulam, and Peermede in Travancore-Cochin. These areas are absolutely fit, and every facility is there, for establishing a large-scale dairy farm. Karachi cows, Andhra cows, Jersey cows and even the Australian breed can be reared there. It would be one of the best spots in the whole of India for setting up a large dairy farm. We are now importing tons and tons of dry milk from outside India. We can have the cattle of all breeds reared in these highlands and the import of milk lessened to that extent.

Speaking about Devikulam and Peermede—that happens to be in my constituency and late last week I was over there in those highlands. There are two or three new townships there. One is on the way from Neriamangalam to Munnar, the others near Pallivasal. Those townships were established at the request of Government authorities when the hydro-electric schemes were being started. Now, because the Government want to put up some hospital in one place or some other buildings as quarters for Government officers in the other places, they want the townships to be removed. When I went to those places, the men, women and children in those townships collected and petitioned. The Government have thousands of acres to build upon. They can have their hospital or quart-

ers at other places rather than disturb these poor people from their hovels. Well, Sir, home is sweet to everyone. Whether we live in a palace or in a hovel, home has its sentimental value. The English poet sang:

"Home, sweet home, there is
no place like home."

I saw tears in their eyes. These poor people have been threatened that their houses would be demolished. In fact, I would be happy if the Government would build palaces, pyramids or parthenons for their officers. But whatever they do; let them not be built on the house-tops of other people; let them not be constructed on the roofs of poor people's hovels.

Then, so far as railway routes are concerned, Kerala State is one of the most ill-developed. We have been mentioning this for many years. Everyone of us here in the Parliament from the south has been demanding expansion of railway lines in that State. One major line can be the route between Cochin and Madurai. That will open up the Tamilnad and give easy facility for people in the centre of Tamilnad to go to west coast, that is Cochin. That will improve trade both in the Tamilnad and in Kerala State. It will open up the Travancore highlands also.

What did we get with all our representations to the Centre and the Railway Ministry? We got just 110 or about 120 miles of railway line between Ernakulam and Quilon and much is said about it. We wanted a broad gauge line and they gave us a metre gauge. Building metre gauge lines now, I should think, is like building a Spanish Armada for the defence of this Republic.

There is another very important line and that is the Cochin-Quilon line via Alleppey. There can be a third line and that is the Thiruvellah-Punalur line. I commend these schemes to the Railway Ministry.

During Question Hour today mention was made about the expansion of cultivation of rubber. I am happy

[Shri Kottukappally]

they are doing it. Some steps are also being taken for the expansion of the cashewnut plantations. I am sure the Government will give their serious attention to this, because we are very much short of cashewnuts for processing and our factories do not find sufficient material to work with. The factories in Quilon, Trichur and other places do not get enough material. We have to import cashewnut from East Africa to be processed in Quilon. Our differences with the people of Africa might eventually deprive us of this product. It is high time that we think about cashew plantations.

Then, as I have already said, there is cardamom. The Government should pay their attention to expanding the cultivation of cardamom. Some subsidy can be given to the cultivators to encourage them. Some scientific knowledge and information can be imparted to these cultivators for improving their plantation.

There is another matter that is causing much heart-burning in Travancore-Cochin and that is the question of the depressed classes, the Pulayas, Pariahs etc. This is a matter about which representations had been made to the Congress Ministry in Travancore-Cochin State and also to the Central Government. If a Pulaya becomes a Christian or a Muslim, he loses all the benefits he gets as a Scheduled Caste. If a Pulaya becomes again a Hindu Pulaya, he gets back all the benefits. Sir, we recite the Upanishads; we recite the Buddha Sutras; we quote the Koran and the Bible chapter and verse, but I am sorry there is much pettiness in our hearts. Tagore once sang: "Strike, strike at the root of penury in our hearts". I would say, we must all pray at times so that the pettiness, the parochialism the provincialism and the communalism in our minds might be wiped away, might vanish.

An Hon. Member: Communists?

Shri Kottukappally: Communists—
that is a worse evil.

I would request the Government of India, the Home Ministry and the Government of Travancore-Cochin to look into this question. There is not much difference of opinion, so far as the old members of the Travancore-Cochin Legislature and the major communities are concerned, in this regard. The major communities—the Hindus, the Christians and Mussalmans—have more or less said that no discrimination should be shown to the Pulayas, Pariahs etc. whether they are Mohammedans, Sikhs, Christians or Hindus. Pulayas are poor, or at least most of the Pulayas are poor. They are ignorant. To whatever religious denomination they may belong, if they are poor and if they are ignorant, all help and facilities should be given to them without any discrimination as to their caste, creed or religious persuasion.

So far as the small-scale industries are concerned, I was happy to see a booklet in Trivandrum, when I was there last time, which had been prepared by Shri K. C. Chacko. It gives information as to the type of small-scale industries that can be started in Travancore-Cochin. I wish that much more publicity is given to that booklet. After the information is confirmed then the Government can ask the people to come forward to start the industries.

Shri A. M. Thomas was mentioning yesterday about the starting of technological and technical institutions in different district headquarters and even in the different taluk headquarters. I commend all that Shri A. M. Thomas has said about this subject.

I think my time is up, and I must stop. Before closing, I would request the hon. Home Minister, Pandit G. B. Pant, to take good care of my Kerala State. I commend Kerala to his care. When I hear him in this Parliament, I feel that neither Demosthenes nor Cicero spoke better. He is the patriarch of this paramount Parliament. He is like the prophets of old, a man of enlightenment, of understanding and

of wisdom. I wish to tell him in all earnestness and from the very bottom of my heart that unless something tangible is done for the Kerala State before the sands of time run short it might eventually imperil the solidarity of our Republic which, God in his mercy, forbid.

Mr. Speaker: Shri H. N. Mukerjee.

Shri Achuthan (Crangannur): With due respect to Shri H. N. Mukerjee, I might point out that there are a few more Members from Travancore-Cochin who want to speak.

Mr. Speaker: Shri H. N. Mukerjee will speak only for a few minutes.

Shri C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur): May I request that the time allotted for this subject may be extended at least by half an hour so that the other Members who wish to speak, may also speak?

Mr. Speaker: Four hours have been allotted for this subject. I am going to call the hon. Minister at quarter to one. In between, the hon. Members can take five or six minutes each. I shall call as many of them as possible within the time available.

Shri N. B. Muniswamy (Wandiwash): Only Members from Travancore-Cochin State have been speaking till now. None else has spoken.

Shri Nettur P. Damodaran (Telli-cherry): The Members from Malabar are yet to speak, quite apart from the Members from Travancore-Cochin.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but the time is limited. Shri H. N. Mukerjee.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): I shall be very brief because I feel that this is a subject on which naturally my friends from Travancore-Cochin would speak from first-hand experience, and as far as I can make out, they have already had a field day. The only reason why I intervene is that this resolution is being watched, so to speak, by the whole country, because, the background to this resolution is something

which, try as I may, I cannot entirely forget. It has come about that the cultured and talented people of Kerala, that lovely strip of land in the south-west corner of our country, have been deprived, for good reason or bad reason, of the prerogatives of freedom. There has been a feeling which has already been expressed in the House, that the reason for this proclamation and its continuance is really the fear of the ruling party, that is, where it cannot have a free hand, it will try to bring into operation all the apparatus of its authority in order to prevent the appearance in Kerala of other political parties who might perhaps try their hand at administration. But I know that I cannot go into the details of that matter, but, specially on the eve of the general elections, there is the feeling in the country that there should be opportunities in this country for different political parties coming into power in different States, if the electorate in a particular region happens to vouchsafe, to other parties than the ruling party, the power which representatives of the people should get.

The Home Minister, when he spoke yesterday, expressed a desire that perhaps the House would like to record its appreciation of the work which has been done by the Adviser. As I have said before, I do not have first-hand experience of what is happening in Travancore-Cochin, but from the trend of the speeches made even by my friends from the Congress party, it appears plain that there are many grievances in Travancore-Cochin which have not been looked after as efficiently as perhaps they might have been by the Adviser. May be in certain respects the Adviser's administration is entitled to appreciation, but, basically speaking, the people's desire for real exercise of self-Government has been thwarted in such a manner that small mercies do not appear to them to be particularly palatable. Therefore, I fear that I cannot pay a particularly mentionable tribute of appreciation to the work of the Adviser.

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

Besides, I find that the Adviser, in his first statement to Travancore-Cochin and its people, said that the people there could have a short respite from politics and that they were going to have impartial administration. I know that at one time, before we were independent, politics was our absorption by day our dream by night, and it was politics of a particular description. After Independence, the character of that politics has changed, but surely, in order to bring our country nearer the heart's desire of our people, we do want to participate in the right kind of politics so that the people can shape their own destinies in Travancore-Cochin. That, however, has not happened, and the respite from politics promised by the Adviser has not obviously been appreciated by the people. Even assuming, though not admitting, that the Adviser has brought good Government to Travancore-Cochin, that good Government by the Adviser has been felt by the people to be no substitute of for real exercise of self-Government by themselves. That is why there has been expressed in this House so much complaint in regard to the administration of the Adviser.

I wish in particular to make a reference to a dispute between the Alleppey Municipal Council and the administration of the Adviser—a dispute over the granting of relief to lower income-groups with respect to property tax. I am given to understand that the Municipal Council of Alleppey was authorised to levy property tax, and in order to do so, it could rely on two provisions of the Travancore-Cochin District Municipalities Act, namely, section 82(5) and section 124. Section 82(5) gives power to the Council to exempt from levy of property tax any property with an annual rental value of Rs. 18 or less. The other section—section 124—gives power to the Municipal Council to exempt any person or class of persons from the payment of tax, but only with the sanction of Government.

The Alleppey Municipal Council, according to the information supplied to me, decided that it was better to extend the area of relief in regard to taxation. Now, if exemption could be granted on properties of the annual rental value of Rs. 18 only, then, relief could be given to about 4,000 assesses out of the total of 24,000. The idea was, on the part of the Municipal Council, to offer this relief to as many of the low income group as possible. Therefore, the Municipal Council wrote to the Government of the day, which was a P.S.P. administration, for sanction under section 124. They detailed a proposal that owners of property with an annual rental value of Rs. 60 and below should be exempted. According to that proposal, something like 18,000 assesses would get relief. At that time, the P.S.P. Government gave sanction to this idea of extending the ambit of relief. As a matter of fact, the coffers of the Municipal Council did not suffer in the least and there was no loss of revenue to the Council on account of this. Because, while formerly, I am told, the Council was collecting Rs. 1,30,000 of house tax, the present Council is collecting about Rs. 1,89,000 in spite of the additional and substantial relief given to the lower income group of taxpayers. Three years after this event in 1956, we find that this progressive taxation policy which helped the lower income group and which altogether did not bring about any diminution in the municipal revenue, was looked askance at by the Administration. Now, the Administration of the Adviser has ordered the Municipal Council of Alleppey that it was not proper or necessary to have had the exemption. The result is, from now onwards the 24,000 property owners would have to pay the tax.

I am told that the Alleppey Municipal Council has taken up this matter with the Adviser. As far as the Adviser and his Administration is concerned, their attitude is very unsympathetic and it may even be that

the Municipal Council, in the interests of its own policy as well as in the interests of the low income group among the citizens in that town, may go to court. This is an instance where I find that the action of the Adviser is absolutely in disregard of the interests of the low income group of our people and also in disregard of certain rights which were exercised by the Municipal Council after fully complying with the provisions of the law concerned. This is one instance how we find the Adviser is functioning. I am told that all over Travancore-Cochin, not only in the town of Alleppey, there is a great deal of feeling over this kind of encroachment upon the rights of municipalities, an encroachment which, at the same time, involves an attack upon the position of the lower income group of our citizens.

I said that I was going to be very brief.....

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): The only remedy is to amend the Municipalities Act. It is not within the jurisdiction of the Adviser to grant any relief.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: This tax was imposed by the Municipality and the relevant sanction was received from the Government. If, at any subsequent stage, there was going to be a review of the position, naturally, the Administration was welcome. But, for the Administration to try to apply sanctions against the Municipality and to try, at the same time, to deprive the Municipality of what it considers to be its rightful privilege under the provisions of the law, is something against which public opinion in Alleppey and Travancore-Cochin, according to the reports reaching me, is extremely indignant.

I said I was going to be very brief. I won't refer to any other matter except to repeat what I said earlier. That is, in regard to what has happened in Travancore-Cochin, we have serious misgivings. We have an apprehension especially on the eve of the general elections that the policy

of the party in power is to see that it remains in power all over the country and that even where the people exercise their franchise in a manner which is derogatory to their power, in a manner which is detrimental to their continuation in certain regions, even then, they are going to bring into the picture certain apparatus of authority which they have done in the case of Travancore-Cochin. I feel, therefore, that we are very unhappy in regard to this proclamation. We are, doubly unhappy when it becomes inescapably necessary for the proclamation to be continued. But, we cannot, in all conscience, support the Resolution which my hon. friend the Home Minister has brought before the House.

Shri Mathew (Kottayam): There are only three of us. If we are given ten minutes each, it would be only half an hour. That is within the discretion of the Chair.

Shri C. R. Iyyunni: Time may be extended by one hour.

Shri Achuthan: Members who speak in the beginning take 30 or 35 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot help it now.

Shri C. R. Iyyunni: That is not the point. It is the usual practice here, for the Member who speaks first to get as much time as he wants and the Speaker or the Deputy-Speaker allow him to continue.

Mr. Speaker: If it has been done already, hon. Members must have taken exception then and there. Probably, the hon. Member was not present. I cannot extend the time. Hon. Members have spoken at length. I suppose they spoke about Travancore-Cochin and not about any other subject. Now, five minutes to Shri Achuthan.

Shri C. R. Iyyunni: Mr. Speaker....

Mr. Speaker: Shri Achuthan.

Shri Achuthan: I am sorry that yesterday, the other Members, without considering that there were other Members coming from that State....

Mr. Speaker: They must have had some consideration.

Shri Achuthan:.....and without considering that there was no Assembly in that State, took a lot of time.

Mr. Speaker: I shall bear this in mind when the next occasion comes up.

Shri Achuthan: This is the time for extension of the proclamation. Yesterday and today also, Shri Punnoose and Shri H. N. Mukerjee stated, not angrily, but in a resentful way, that there was no occasion for democracy to have sway in Travancore-Cochin. After the resignation of the Congress Ministry, every chance was given by the Rajpramukh and the Government of India to see whether it was possible for the other parties to come together and form a Government. If even after a long time it had not been possible for them to co-operate and come together, it is not the fault of the Government or the Rajpramukh. My point is, now let the people and all parties in Malabar and Travancore-Cochin open their eyes and see that after the general elections are over, a strong democratic party comes into power that is the only solution. Nobody denies that a democratic party should come into power. The P.S.P. was in power for one year. I understand that the Communist Party is in a critical stage. That is why they want the co-operation of all other parties except the Congress. Now, Shri Jai Prakash Nair who has given Jeevandan for sarvodaya has come forward and stated that there is no objection to have an alliance with the Communist Party. It is all power politics. It is the people who should see that a democratic party comes into power. I appeal to Shri Pocker Sahab, who is not here and to the Muslim League of Malabar. Let them open their eyes to what is happening in the neighbouring countries. Let them think what party is best for them. The time has now come for them to come forward and

say, let us come together and let us have a strong democratic Government in the State. I think Shri Asoka Mehta, Acharya Kripalani, Shri Pattom Thanu Pillai, Shri Kelappan and other leaders should think one hundred times before taking a decision to have an alliance with the other leftist parties which, though they may sometimes proclaim that they are for democracy, may not follow democratic principles throughout their career. It is no good Shri H. N. Mukerjee and Shri Punnoose saying that democracy is in danger. How can there be two bye-elections in one year? Necessarily we have to extend the proclamation. As was stated by the Home Minister, in November, there should be another proclamation including Malabar and Kasarkode.

Coming to the five months of President's rule, I am very happy to say that the Adviser is doing his job well. What did we expect? What is the criterion? The only criterion is, under this Administration, is the state going forward or backward. We do not want any new policy to be introduced. It is not the intention of the Adviser, nor of the Government of India to introduce a new policy in the State. As he stated on the first day, he wants to keep the administration above party politics and to make it as efficient as possible and within the frame of the Second Five Year Plan and other financial considerations, to give relief to the unemployed. That is what we expected. I can say that he is more an expert administrator. He has to overhaul the machinery, see what are the defects, remove them and hand over the administration to those who come into power. He is doing his job well. You must give good credit to him. He is an experienced man and I do not find much point in saying that he could not do this or that. I have gone through this report and I can definitely say that within these five months, he has gone into the minute details of the administration. That is by the way.

The Adviser has said in this report that there should be some sort of decentralisation. He says that if more powers are given to the Secretaries, Collectors, department heads etc., work can be done more efficiently. I agree that some such methods should be adopted. Moreover, he has said in para. 2 that "it is the direct result of extreme communalism" prevailing in that part of the country. I do not know; there may be communal feelings, but communal justice may be done. He may not be aware of the conditions of the backward classes in the T. C. State. The scheduled castes and backward classes people have not even got the approach to Government offices; a few years back they could not even step into the courtyards of courts. So, naturally, there may be communal feelings. My advice to the Central Government is to see that communal justice is done. I do not want communalism to prevail there; I do not want efficiency to be sacrificed. But, the conditions of the people belonging to the backward and depressed classes are deplorable. Even the Christian community, which forms about 32 per cent of the population, is more than 100 per cent over-represented in this House and they are well-organised. There is no complaint from that quarter; they are well advanced economically and educationally. But, taking the other communities like the Ezhavas and other depressed classes, economically and educationally, they are the most backward. Shri Shanmukam Chetty, the ex-Finance Minister, while he was the Divan in Cochin, stated, "Your salvation lies in Assemblies and in Secretariat; only there your grievances can be ventilated". So, I do not want any partiality to be shown; let recruitment take place at all levels. But, communal justice must be done. That is the only solution for the communal problem. I appeal to the Government of India to see that particular care is taken in this regard.

Coming to the Independence Day broadcast, what the Adviser has said

is an unnecessary and in a sense overstatement also. He said that there must be industrial truce, because there are strikes, lock-outs and all that. He is not the man to say that; he is there to put the administration in proper order. That is all. The other matter must be left to party leaders and public mind. With regard to the cashewnut industry, it was stated that it has been declared non-seasonal. That shows his mind worked in favour of labour. He must see that something is done, so that the labourers are not put to any difficulty and the situation is not aggravated. There is a touch of his vision in all the departments concerned; there is no time for me to examine them in detail here. For instance, his attention has been drawn to small-scale and large-scale industries. It is only by industrialisation that you can give relief to the unemployed. The T.C. Government have appointed an Educated Unemployed Enquiry Committee and they have submitted their report. A survey has already been made of the unemployment position in T.C. Now the Adviser must see what can be done within the shortest time possible to give relief to the unemployed people. He must approach the Government of India for the necessary funds and see that as many industries as possible are established either by the T.C. Government or the Central Government, so that some relief can be given to the people who are unemployed.

Now I come to the location of the printing press. I want to emphasise that the Government of India must set up the printing press in the T.C. State; otherwise it will be a very real grievance on our part.

The Minister of Home Affairs and Heavy Industries (Pandit G. B. Pant): This matter was discussed yesterday. I regret that I was not present throughout, but I have got some notes before me. This discussion was mainly directed towards matters of detail. So far as that goes, I do not claim that all the ills from which

[Shri Achuthan]

the state of Travancore-Cochin had been suffering had been cured during the last five months or so of the Administrator's rule. The Administrator made an earnest effort to remedy some of the evils and to take adequate steps in order to facilitate and expedite the development of the State. I do not think any miracles could be expected within these five months; but, on the whole, from his report it will be fair to infer that he has done his job well. I was glad to hear some of the speakers from the State itself; they gave good chits to him and he will be heartened by the kind words that were spoken here in appreciation of his labours.

Professor Mukerjee seemed to complain that the President's rule had been introduced in Travancore-Cochin, as I understand it, in order to keep the communists out of office. He seems to be under the delusion that if the President's rule had not been introduced, then the communists would have stepped into office. He seems to have forgotten the facts. The total strength of communists there was round about 25, I think, in a House of 118. The Rajpramukh invited the leader of the communist party and asked him if he could undertake the responsibility of forming a Ministry for running the administration. He gave him all the time that he needed in order to give thought to this proposal and ultimately he frankly expressed his inability to gather the necessary strength which will enable him to run the administration. In the circumstances, I do not see how anybody can complain that this step was taken in order to oust the communist party or to block the way in order that the communist party might not find access to the ministerial offices.

The truth is just the reverse. So, let there be no suspicion about that. But we are not really concerned with that today.

1. P.M.

So far as the extension of the period of six months is concerned,

there is no alternative and there is no escape from it. The six months will be completed on or about the 23rd of October and the new Kerala State will be ushered into existence on the 1st of November. You cannot have an election now and you have to make necessary preparations for general elections in that State. In the circumstances, the only possible course that anyone can adopt is to extend the period of six months for which the President's rule has been allowed at the first instance on the 23rd of April and then to follow it up with such other measures as may be necessary. So, I think, if the matter is rationally approached, there can be difference of opinion on the subject.

Some Members seem to refer again to the fact that on the reorganisation of States, the Members of Malabar will not have a Legislature and they will not be able to enjoy the right which they possess in the Madras Legislature today. Well, I am sorry that it should be so but there is no way out. The Travancore-Cochin Legislature was dissolved at the time when the proclamation was adopted by this House. So, this House has adopted that particular clause in the Proclamation relating to the dissolution of the Legislature and the term of the members of that Legislature automatically came to an end. We cannot, under any law, give them that status again. It cannot be revived even if we wished to do so. If the Legislature had been suspended, it might have been possible to give thought to such a proposal. But the Parliament then dissolved the Legislature. That being the case, I do not see what else we can do. So, faced with hard reality as it is today, though I have my own sympathy with the Malabar Members, I must say frankly that there is no alternative and there is no remedy. Let us hope that when the new elections are held in the Kerala State we will have a stable majority and a stable government.

Travancore-Cochin has suffered from the disease of instability for a fairly long period and it has inevitably prejudiced its interests and come in the way of rapid, solid and enduring progress. So, let us all devote our energy to the ensuring of that state of affairs in which a stable government will be established in Kerala. Kerala is very much bigger than the Travancore-Cochin State and it is desirable that the sorry and dismal chapter should end, no occasion for the President's rule arise and there should be a good majority in the House of one party so that the affairs of the State may be administered by the representatives of the people. I readily accept that good government is no substitute for self-government though, sometimes, good government, I think, prepares the people for self-government and an occasional dose of it may not be altogether to the detriment of the interests of the State.

Something was also said here about the appointment of special officers and so on. I find that certain appointments have been made, just of a temporary nature, to meet the urgent exigencies of the situation. For example, a Special Director of Industries or someone bearing a similar title was appointed; also a Director of Agriculture and a Director of State Transport. Well, many arrears had to be cleared up, leeway had to be made for the arrears that had accumulated during the stage of instability. So, in order to clear up all these arrears and to see that the work was done in an adequate, suitable and efficient manner, the Administrator felt that it would be in the interest of the State to have some really competent men in charge of these activities which cannot but conduce towards the general uplift of the people; in howsoever small appreciable measure it be, it does tend towards that result. Nobody has said that these people have not been doing their job and if they have been doing their job, then we have no objection on that account.

We were told that the number of shops that had been opened for providing foodstuffs at reasonable prices was not more than 155. According to the figures that I have, 155 are wholesale shops and there are 2113 retail shops. So, every attempt has been made to reach every nook and corner of this State so that the hardships felt by the rise in prices may be relieved so far as the poor sections of the community are concerned.

There was some reference also to matters pertaining to labour. I think at least one significant step was taken by the Administrator when the cashewnut industry was declared as a 'non-seasonal industry'. That has resulted in a great deal of relief to the workmen which was something which could not be done in previous years and by this step the cause of labour has certainly gained an advantage which will go to their benefit not only during this year but also in the years to come.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: On a point of clarification. There is no benefit to the workers by that declaration because no pie has been paid by the employers.

Pandit G. B. Pant: Whether it is payable or not is the question. If it has not been paid, it will be paid and they will have their claim. But it becomes payable while in the past it was not payable. That makes a great difference after all.

Shri Velayudhan: Under the Trade Disputes Act it is not covered.

Pandit G. B. Pant: Then there was some reference to some buildings that are under construction. But many more industrial colonies and other houses for the poor and so on are also under construction. As I said, the construction of the buildings would relieve the State exchequer of a recurring liability of Rs. 3 lakhs. So, even from the financial point of view it will be a profitable undertaking. There need be no objection on that score. It has provided some employ-

[Pandit G. B. Pant]

ment to the workers there and it has also to some extent given them a certain amount of purchasing power. I do not see why there should be any grievance on that account.

I stated when I made a few introductory remarks that certain steps had been taken to relieve unemployment. There are a number of institutions there which are doing very good work and large sums are to be spent over them too. Over the Agricultural College the amount to be spent comes to about Rs. 9 lakhs; Veterinary College—Rs. 8 lakhs; soil conservation scheme—more than five schemes; high range colonisation scheme—Rs. 39 lakhs; Periyar valley irrigation scheme—Rs. 15 lakhs; Solayur—Rs. 70 lakhs; Narayanamangalam—Rs. 56 lakhs; industrial estates—Rs. 31 lakhs; State Transport rehabilitation scheme—Rs. 23 lakhs; water supply schemes—Rs. 51 lakhs; anti-erosion and flood control work—Rs. 30 lakhs. The list is pretty long. I have mentioned only a few items from it as I do not want to tire the House by reading out all that there is in this list.

I do not think I need take more time of the House. The affairs of Travancore-Cochin have come in for discussion on a number of occasions. We had the Travancore-Cochin Budget just a few days ago. Then too almost the same ground was covered and the details of the administration came in for comment and criticism. We may have to approach the House again later in connection with affairs pertaining to Travancore-Cochin. The House has the advantage and also the responsibility of looking after the details of the administration of Travancore-Cochin but still we must realise that we are not here in a position exactly to pry into every petty detail, but all that has been said will be brought to the notice of the Administrator. It is our wish that the affairs of this State may be carried on in a manner which will give the utmost satisfaction to the people

living in the State, that its resources may be used so as to advance its interests not only now but also to the extent it may be possible in future and that though the Ministers are not in office and though there is no legislature, public opinion should be respected and everything should be done in a manner which will give the people the idea that President's rule has come to their assistance and that it is the business of all those who are engaged in the administration of the....

Shri Mathen: May I know if there is any possibility of a large-scale industry coming into the State in the public sector?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I wish that it may be possible to establish some big industry in Travancore-Cochin, but as hon. Members are aware it is the function of the Planning Commission. They have to see which industries can be suitably established in this part of the country. My sympathies are with the people of Travancore-Cochin, and we have accepted the principle that there should be no regional disparity, that industries should be so established that every region may be benefited by one or the other of the industries. That principle will, I hope be adopted....

Shri Mathen: Our experience has been the reverse.

Pandit G. B. Pant:...also with requirements of Travancore-Cochin and I will be happy if some industries could be established there.

I would request the House to accept my resolution.

Shri Velayudhan: One clarification. On page 14 of the brochure it is stated: "This has the effect of conferring on the workers all the benefits visualised under the Industrial Disputes Amendment Act 1953." But labour has not got any assistance according to this Act. Is it going to be given,

and if it does not come within the purview of the law, is the Government going to amend this particular law so that the workers in that industry may be covered?

Pandit G. B. Pant: If the hon. Member will please write to me fully about this matter, I will pass on the letter to the Administrator for his consideration.

Shri N. E. Muniswamy: One more clarification. After the appointed day, that is 1st November, 1956, some territories are to be added on to Travancore-Cochin. May I know whether in respect of that a fresh proclamation will be issued on 1st November.

Pandit G. B. Pant: If you want it to be issued, it will be.

Shri N. E. Muniswamy: Not that I want it. I want to know the position.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 23rd March, 1956, under Article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of Travancore-Cochin and approved by the resolutions passed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on the 29th March, 1956 and the 24th April, 1956 respectively."

The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC DEBT (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Public Debt Act, 1944, be taken into consideration."

This is a very small and perhaps non-controversial measure. Though there are some 15 clauses, I am sure there will be no controversy over this amending Bill. Hon. Members are

aware that the Public Debt Act was enacted in 1944 for the administration by the Reserve Bank of the public debt of India and the securities issued by the Government. The Act was amended in 1949 in order to include the State Governments' public debt and the securities issued by the State Governments to be administered by the Reserve Bank. By that amending Bill the public debt of the Government of India and the Part A States was to be administered by the Reserve Bank but it did not apply to Part B States. Some of the Part B States have their own laws and they govern the public debt of those States. Some States had no law, and if all the States passed their own laws there was a possibility of a good deal of confusion, and therefore we thought that all these Part B States also should be brought under this Public Debt Act. Under the Constitution, it was necessary that resolutions should be passed by the Part B States to give power to Parliament to legislate for this purpose. And all the State Governments, excepting the State of Jammu and Kashmir, have passed these resolutions giving power to Parliament to legislate. Therefore, this amending Bill has now been brought forward.

I do not think it requires any further elucidation. I hope the House will agree to the motion I have moved.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Public Debt Act, 1944, be taken into consideration."

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): May I ask just one question? Most of the Part B States are not going to exist after 1st November. So, what is the special hurry or necessity to have this particular amending Bill? After 1st November, the Part B States themselves will cease to exist, and all their assets and liabilities will be transferred either to the existing States or to the new States which will be born, and which will also be described only as Part A